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THE TIMES

No. 65,147

MONDAY DECEMBER 26 1994

£9m in autumn campaign fund

Labour stands by for an early election

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

THE Labour Party has been put on the alert for a general election as early as next autumn and has amassed a £9m fighting fund for a campaign that it hopes will put Tony Blair into Downing Street.

Labour strategists are now preparing for the possibility that the Conservatives will drop John Major next year in a desperate attempt to revive their disastrous position and are calculating that an election would follow soon after.

The surprisingly large election war chest, almost certainly more than anything the Tories could match in their present parlous circumstances, has been steadily set aside from the party's income over the past two years and will be devoted solely to election pre-planning and the campaign itself.

Senior Labour sources say the figure will soar to £10m at least if the Conservatives delay the election until late 1996 or 1997. The money will comprise membership subscription funds — two weeks ago Labour secured its 300,000th member — union levies and pledged donations.

The figures will be regarded with envy at Conservative Central Office, where there is mounting concern over falling company donations. The Tories spent £10m on the 1992 election.

But Tom Sawyer, the new Labour general secretary, is ready to dip into the fund next year if the Conservatives continue to show no signs of recovery from their disastrous poll position.

In a move that demonstrates

Labour's growing confidence, he is planning shortly to appoint nine new press officers to work from the party's regional offices across the country to ensure that Labour's message is spread through the local press and media.

Mr Sawyer is also bringing Fraser Kemp, Labour's highly-regarded West Midlands regional organiser, to London to act as his right-hand man, working on special projects such as the membership drive and on advance election planning.

Selection of candidates, delayed by the Boundary Commission, is now being given all priority. The aim is to have candidates in all key marginal seats by next autumn.

The Government is more unpopular than any in polling history, its approval rating having sunk to single figures in last week's MORI poll for *The Times*.

Labour strategists calculate that if the Tories drop Mr

Major, his successor will have no choice but to call an early election in order to cash in on whatever honeymoon he may enjoy with the voters.

The Labour view is that a new Conservative leader could not hope to repeat Mr Major's feat of going on from his own leadership election for a further 18 months before calling an election. "If they did that they would lose any advantage they might gain from dropping Major," a senior strategist said last week.

Mr Blair's desire to speed up preparations for a general election was one of the reasons behind his move to have a special conference in April to approve a new version of Clause 4, its antiquated socialist creed. The change, still resisted by many party activists, is regarded as of massive symbolic importance by the leadership.

Planners are hoping to use the conference to keep Labour's bandwagon running in the approach to the local elections in May, Mr Major's next big electoral hurdle.

Mr Blair has asked for work on Labour's tax, employment and welfare policies to be stepped up in case an election is suddenly called. He is also developing policies for job creation, the information super-highway and education standards.

Labour's financial position has eased as a result of swelling membership. It has risen by more than 50,000 since Mr Blair's July election.

Peter Riddell and Diary, page 12



Sawyer: advance election planning is priority



The Princess of Wales watches as her husband greets his grandmother at church

Christmas tradition unites royals

THE Prince and Princess of Wales were reunited when the Royal Family attended the traditional Christmas Day church service at Sandringham, but appeared not to talk or even to exchange glances.

In her Christmas message, the Queen expressed hope that the outbreak of peace in many parts of the world was

not a false dawn. She said that although there was still much violence and hatred, more people around the world, including those of Northern Ireland and South Africa, had real hope of their children growing up in peace and free from fear.

The Christmas sermon by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, was less well received. His comments on homelessness and the plight of the poor were described as whingeing by the Conservative MP David Wilshire.

Message in full, page 2
Christmas sermons, page 14
Leading article, page 15

How I escaped from a city under siege by the Russians

AT 3.45 on Friday afternoon, Russian planes finally succeeded in scoring a direct hit on Grozny's electricity generating station. Lights, power and telephones all over central Chechnya failed, and, with communications cut, the six remaining members of the Western press corps in Grozny decided it was time to go.

We had been preceded by one of our colleagues, Cynthia Elbaum, who left in a makeshift cardboard coffin, a volley of shots fired over her by Chechens as a mark of respect.

Three exceptionally brave and determined journalists are planning to return to Grozny with an electricity generator, to bear witness to the sufferings of its population; but those of us who had stayed in Chechnya for several weeks, it was time to rest for a while. The last few days in particular were among the most wearing of our lives.

The death of Cynthia, killed by a bomb on Thursday, was a terrible blow; but the grief and shock soon became almost submerged by horror at what was happening to the city in general. In my case, emotion over the bombardment was in turn eventually numbed by sheer exhaustion, after three nights of almost no sleep.

It is difficult to say for sure what effects the sustained night bombing is having on the morale of the Chechens, but by God it demoralised me. Repeated air raids, with varying intervals between them, combine the danger and terror of any military bombardment with the deeply irritating quality of having a mosquito stuck in your bedroom. Just when you think it has gone away and you can go to sleep, back comes that droning noise again. But whereas you can always try to swat the mosquito, here it is the mosquito which is trying

to swat you. As you hear the whining drone of the planes approach, you have quite a long time to consider. The Russian air force over Grozny has certain peculiarities with which to occupy your time as you wait. Though some of the aircraft dropped four bombs, and some one big one, those which seemed quietest and furthest away produced the loudest explosion, and vice versa.

After each night of shattering explosions, we emerged from our hotel to a city with more blackened holes blasted out of it, more horribly mutilated



Anatol Lieven, one of the last Western newsmen in Grozny, tells how he fled the continuing nightmare

lated bodies, and more grieving survivors. As weariness mounts, even the grieving began to sound monotonous and repetitive.

The raids of Friday night were the worst yet, but according to reports, things have got even worse since. At intermittent intervals throughout the night enormous explosions shook our hotel and enormous white flashes, with red at their centre, lit the windows.

At 2.30am, a raid on our immediate neighbourhood sent us fleeing to a cellar near by. A pattern of four bombs about 150 metres away demolished

Russian claim, page 7
William Rees-Mogg, page 12
Diary, page 12

Pressure grows for lottery limit after £7.8 million win

By Andrew Pierce

PRESSURE is growing for a ceiling on the National Lottery top prize after Camelot confirmed that the latest winner will collect £7.8 million.

Camelot would not say whether the prize was won by an individual or a syndicate. As it cannot be collected until the banks open on Wednesday, the winner will lose an estimated £3,000 in two days of interest. Winning numbers were 2, 3, 27, 29, 39 and 44, and the bonus ball was 6.

The lottery was again hit by controversy when a nationwide computer failure cut off ticket sales. A third of lottery operators were unable to switch on computers for up to

six hours on Saturday, the biggest day for sales; 2,000 more computers broke down for 45 minutes in the evening.

Marjorie Mowlam, MP for Redcar, is calling for an inquiry. Her constituents were badly affected, she said. "The entire area was wiped out," Camelot has pledged a full internal enquiry.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, led the way at the weekend in pressing for restraint. "Can we be proud of a society where the National Lottery, and the possibility of immense personal gain, have become such frenzied preoccupations?"

"Although it will bring undoubted benefits, it also gives a special boost to covetousness and escapism. While a national lottery is no doubt a fact of life in this country for the foreseeable future, and I am no killjoy, perhaps we should at least scale down the more excessive prizes and tone down the hype."

Lord St John of Brawley, a former Arts minister, welcomed the heritage benefit

field from the lottery. But he said yesterday: "Enough is enough. These sort of prizes destroy rather than enhance lives. It is the worship of the golden calf."

The proceeds should be spread around, I think £1 million is enough for everyone. Realism must prevail."

Marjorie Mowlam, a former Shadow Heritage Spokesman, backed the calls for restraint. Speaking in a personal capacity, she said: "The top prizes are too high. It would be better to share it around. The £18 million was plain daft."

Camelot said that computer problems began at 6am, when a third of ticket sellers had problems signing on to their terminals. "It was a computer fault and took a couple of hours to fix. By noon the vast majority were back on."

The evening failure as "just a glitch in the system". Ms Mowlam said: "That is just not good enough. Computer glitches keep happening. There should be an immediate inquiry."

Man sought over killing

A man freed halfway through a four-year jail sentence for attempting to kill his ex-wife was yesterday being sought by police after she was found shot dead and her lover stabbed in the head.

Police warned the public that Phillip Manning, 41, was dangerous and said they wanted to talk to him about the shooting of his former wife. Page 3

Ex-MP admits link with spy

Former Labour MP Ron Brown last night admitted to a long relationship with Oleg Gordievsky, the former KGB spy-master, at the height of the Cold War. Mr Brown and Mr Gordievsky first met in the House of Commons. Page 3

Bank looks West

The chairman of National Westminster has disclosed that his bank is keen to buy or to form a joint venture with a Wall Street investment bank in an effort to expand its capital markets business. Page 32

Police poised to move on hijackers

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

A CRACK French police unit was poised last night to intervene in Algeria, where more than 170 hostages were being held at gunpoint by Islamic terrorists on an Air France plane.

The Airbus-300 was hijacked on Saturday by five armed men as it prepared to take off for Paris from Houari Boumedienne airport, Algiers. With about 40 Frenchmen, including 12 crew, among the hostages, Edouard Balladur, the French Prime Minister, held urgent discussions yesterday with his Algerian counterpart, Mokdad Sifi.

Alain Juppé, the French Foreign Minister, said that an intervention force had been put on standby should Algeria call for assistance. The French press said that the force included the highly trained National Gendarmes' Intervention Group.

Shortly after the aircraft was seized, two passengers, one an Algerian policeman, the other Vietnamese, were shot dead, and their bodies thrown on to the tarmac about 60, mainly women and

children, were released. Last night, at least five of those freed arrived in Paris. All flights between France and Algeria were suspended.

The men have been identified as members of the Armed Islamic Group, the most extreme wing of Algeria's fundamentalist movement. Unconfirmed reports suggested that a group of French diplomats was among those being held.

The hijackers yesterday dropped demands for the release of Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, the joint leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front from house arrest, instead saying they wanted the aircraft to leave for an unspecified destination. Last night the Algerian Government was refusing to meet their request and blocked the runway.

According to reports from Algiers, the group approached the plane dressed as airport staff, scolding the passengers shortly before take off. The leader was named as Abdul Abdallah Yahia.

Algerian hit list, page 8
Leading article, page 13

Bungling burglars let down by overloaded lift

By Robin Young

DETECTIVES called to a shop in Southend, Essex, early yesterday morning found two burglars stuck in a lift with the office safe. Alerted when people leaving a discotheque next door had heard shouts for help and banging from spoils in the High Street, the police found that the offices above had been ransacked.

In their haste to get away, two men, both in their 20s, had tried to take a

heavy office safe downstairs in a small service lift. They did not notice the sign on the door warning that it was meant for no more than two people.

"It stuck between floors because they overloaded it," said Detective Inspector Dave Frampton. They were trapped inside that small steel cupboard for six hours, sitting on the floor, when they would be their Christmas present.

"They were out robbing at a time when normal people were at home

celebrating with their families. It was a very special moment when the firemen opened the doors and they staggered out into our arms. They said they had never been so pleased to see police and firemen in their lives. We were pleased to see them, too."

Power to the lift was turned off and then it was wound down to the ground floor so the doors would open.

The two burglars had been trying to attract attention for most of the six hours they were locked in, but it was

not until the Club Arts disco next door closed its Christmas Eve special that anyone heard them.

"They could easily have stayed there over Christmas, until the Spoils staff came in again on Tuesday morning," Mr Frampton said. It was believed that the men had planned to go back for a second safe.

Two men were yesterday charged with burglary and released on police bail to appear at Southend magistrates' court on February 7.

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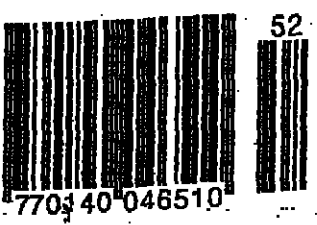
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'Generosity of spirit alone can banish prejudice'

THE following is the full text of the Queen's Christmas Message broadcast yesterday.

"I shall never forget the events in Normandy last June, when the representatives of the wartime allies commemorated the 50th anniversary of the D-Day landings. We who were there, and millions of others through television and radio, paid fitting tribute to the courage of those who took part in that epic campaign.

As Prince Philip and I stood watching the British veterans march past on the beach at Arromanches, my own memories of 1944 were stirred — of how it was to wait anxiously for news of friends and relations engaged in that massive and hazardous operation; of the subsequent ebb and flow of the battles in France and then in Germany itself, and of the gradual realisation that the war really was at last coming to an end.

Since those D-Day commemorations, Prince Philip and I have been to Russia. While we were in St Petersburg, we had the opportunity to honour the millions of patriotic Russians who died fighting the common enemy. To see British and Russian veterans standing together, in memory of the sacrifices of their comrades-in-arms, was a moving experience. I never



Queen draws message of hope from the words of a First World War poet

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE Queen turned to one of England's renowned First World War poets to end her Christmas message, urging people to look for the beauty in their lives.

She drew inspiration from a short poem by Siegfried Sassoon, right, who was twice wounded while serving with the Royal Welch Fusiliers on the French front and won the Military Cross for bravery.

The Queen said: "The poet Siegfried Sassoon, amidst all the horrors of war, still found himself able to write these words: 'Everyone's voice was suddenly lifted: And beauty came like the setting sun'."

The two lines are from *Everyone Sang*, written in 1919:

Everyone suddenly burst out singing:

*And I was filled with such delight
As prisoned birds must find in freedom.*

*Winging wildly across the white
Orchards and dark-green fields:
on-on-and out of sight.*

Everyone's voice was suddenly lifted:

And beauty came like the setting sun:

*My heart was shaken with tears;
and horror*

*Drifted away... O, but Everyone
Was a bird: and the song was
wordless: the singing will never be done.*

Sassoon announced he was a pacifist and threw the MC away.

By quoting from a poem, the Queen was following in her father's footsteps. In his Christmas Broadcast in 1939, George VI quoted from a poem entitled *The Gate of the Year*, published privately in 1908 by Marie Louise Haskins, a lecturer at the London School of Economics.

He quoted:

"I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year.

"Give Me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied: "Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the Hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way."



convince even the most hard-hearted that peace is worth striving for.

Next year, we shall commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. The celebrations will no doubt be spectacular, and I hope we all enjoy them. But we can also, each in our own way, ensure that they leave a lasting mark in history. If we resolve to be considerate and to help our neighbours; to make friends with people of different races and religions; and, as our Lord said, to look to our own faults before we criticise others, we will be keeping faith with those who landed in Normandy and fought so doggedly for their belief in freedom, peace and human decency.

The poet Siegfried Sassoon, amidst all the horrors of war, still found himself able to write these words: 'Everyone's voice was suddenly lifted: And beauty came like the setting sun'."

If he could see the beauty from the trenches of Flanders, surely we can look for it in our own lives, this Christmas and in the coming year.

Happy Christmas and God bless you."

Photograph, page 1
Leading article, page 15

thought it would be possible in my lifetime to join with the Patriarch of Moscow and his congregation in a service in the heart of the Moscow Kremlin.

This Christmas, as we pray for peace at home and abroad — not least in Russia itself — we can also give thanks that such cathedrals and churches

will be full and that the great bells, which greeted us, will be ringing out to celebrate our Saviour's birth.

We are frequently reminded, of course, that violence and hatred are still all too much in evidence. We can take some comfort, however, from the fact that more people throughout the world, year by year, have real hope of their children

growing up in peace and free from fear.

Last Christmas we were witnessing the signs of a new dawn after the long night of bitterness, and this year these signs have become steadily stronger. If that new dawn is to be a real, and not a false one, courage, patience and faith will be sorely needed — those same qualities which

kept the flame of hope alive in the war-torn countries of Europe and the Far East in the dark days of the last war.

Christ taught us to love our enemies and to do good to them that hate us. It is a hard lesson to learn, but this year we have seen shining examples of that generosity of spirit which alone can banish division and prejudice. In North-

ern Ireland, peace is gradually taking root: a fully democratic South Africa has been welcomed back into the Commonwealth; and, in the Middle East, long standing enmities are healing.

What is it that makes people turn from violence, and try to bring peace to their communities? Most of all, I believe, it is their determination to bring

reality to their hopes of a better world for their children.

The sight of the happy faces of children and young people in Russia, in South Africa, where so much has changed with such extraordinary speed in the last year, and in Northern Ireland, where there is real hope of a permanent end to the bitterness of recent years, should be enough to

Mild weather brings relief to quiet roads

Milder weather yesterday brought respite to emergency services, which answered a record number of calls on Christmas Eve. After warmer weather dispersed the frost and fog, motoring rescue patrols had a quiet day following a hectic 24 hours. Conditions are forecast to continue mild and unsettled. In the previous 24 hours the RAC received more than 30,000 breakdown calls, a record, at the rate of one every 2.8 seconds. The London Ambulance Service also reported a sharp rise in emergencies with three calls a minute at the peak. Forecast, page 16

Christmas twins collide

Lavinia and Lorraine Christmas, twins aged 31, spent Christmas in hospital after colliding head-on on an icy road. Lorraine, a petrol station cashier, met Lavinia driving to her work as a barmaid near their home at Fitcham, near King's Lynn, on Friday. Lavinia, with chest injuries, and Lorraine, with whiplash injuries, are to be discharged today.

Rover 100 replaces Metro

Rover today scraps the 14-year-old Metro badge with the launch of the Rover 100, which it hopes will help to win new sales around the world and push production to near record levels. The Metro has been the company's biggest selling model since the Mini but sales have been falling in the face of strong competition. Prices for the new car start at £6,495.

Alternative message

Jesse Jackson, the American politician, chose homelessness, prejudice and war as themes for his Christmas Day message, broadcast by Channel 4 at the same time as the Queen's appearance on BBC1 and ITV. The black leader said: "Jesus detested the failure of the authorities... to provide the basic necessities of life for their people."

Sex attack on boy, 14

A 14-year-old boy was dragged into woods and subjected to a serious sexual assault by a strongly built man as he walked home from a friend's house in Crawley, West Sussex. He was taken to a victim suite at Hove, where he was interviewed by specially trained detectives. Inspector Jerry Paine said: "We are treating this as a very serious assault. He was very upset."

Drugs seizure charges

Five women and a man have been charged in connection with the seizure of cocaine with a street value of nearly £1 million. The drugs were discovered in the walls of six cartons of duty-free rum carried into Gatwick Airport on a flight from Barbados on Saturday night. The six, including two sisters, will appear before magistrates at Crawley, West Sussex, today.

Christmas delivery



Margaret Blades celebrating Christmas with her son Alexander, born at 7.36am yesterday at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, London. Mrs Blades and her husband Alexander, from Bayswater, have a daughter Scarlett who agreed a brother was a much better present than a doll. Mr Blades said: "For my son to be born on Christmas Day is very special."

Club doormen shot

Two doormen were shot after refusing to allow two men into the State club in Liverpool early yesterday. One doorman had hand and leg wounds, the other had leg injuries. Armed police later stopped a vehicle and arrested two men. A man will appear before Liverpool magistrates today charged with stabbing a man to death at the Hard Dock Cafe.

£10m canal clean-up plan

Planners from Salford council say the murky waters of the Manchester ship canal could once again team with fish if £10 million was spent on a clean-up operation. The 100-year-old waterway is heavily polluted through Manchester and Salford, but experts say injecting compressed air into the water could bring it up to EU approved standards.

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Ron Brown was contact for Gordievsky

Deselected Labour MP admits secret dealings with KGB

By Andrew Pierce

A FORMER Labour MP last night admitted to a long relationship with Oleg Gordievsky, the former KGB spy-master, at the height of the Cold War.

Ron Brown, deselected at the last election after a turbulent 18-year parliamentary career during which he championed the cause of Colonel Gaddafi and the Soviet regime in Afghanistan, first met Mr Gordievsky in the House of Commons Amie's Bar in the early 1980s. The bar, a popular drinking place for Labour MPs, is nicknamed the Kremlin.

The MP for Edinburgh Leith was photographed with his arm around Mr Gordievsky at a reception at the Soviet embassy in 1984. He then tried to persuade Mr Gordievsky to pay £20,000 for the picture which, he said, would have gone into Labour Party coffers.

Bill Mitchell, Labour MP for Sheffield Heeley, was also in the photograph but the treasurer of the hard-left Campaign Group of Labour MPs last night denied any impropriety in his relationship with Mr Gordievsky.

"I had no idea at the time that he was KGB. I thought he was something to do with education," Mr Mitchell said. "I

met him at a reception attended by other MPs. I had a vodka, which I don't even like. To say it was innocent would make it sound as if I was naive. But there was nothing in it.

"I have never even been to Eastern Europe, let alone Russia. It's daft to suggest I am sympathetic to the Soviet Union because I met Gordievsky at a Soviet reception. I also go to receptions at the Irish Embassy."

Mr Gordievsky defected in May 1985 after being exposed in Moscow as having worked for British intelligence for 11 years. Mr Gordievsky, 56, is publishing a book next year in which he will name up to 24 British "agents of influence". Mr Brown is not on the list. Richard Gott resigned his executive position on *The Guardian* after it was disclosed his name did feature.

Mr Gordievsky confirmed yesterday that he had met Mr Brown but insisted it was not high level and that Mr Brown had never been paid. "He was one of a number of MPs which the Soviet embassy had an interest in. I have never heard of Bill Mitchell."

For five years Mr Brown held clandestine meetings with the KGB official at a pub near the Soviet embassy in

West London. Mr Brown said: "The information I gave him was everyday chat. He could have got it from the *Beano*."

When they met, Mr Brown was vice-president of the British-Soviet Friendship Society. He claimed he was asked to provide briefings on Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader at the time, the 1984 miners' strike, Arthur Scargill, and the likelihood of a breakaway party being formed by Labour's hard left. "When Gordievsky first approached me, he said his specialist role was to provide intimate information to Gorbachev about British politics. He said it was to 'help the Council of Ministers towards a better understanding of the situation in this country'. It was always cleverly couched in terms of mutual purpose and camaraderie."

He drew the line at the sexual peccadillo of MPs. "I was very defensive, particularly about that. I knew the use of such information could be put to."

Mr Brown now recognises that the information he gave Mr Gordievsky may have been destined for places other than the Kremlin. "I have now to ask myself was the information for British Intelligence? It was always Labour figures Gordievsky wanted to know about. The information he sought was more valuable to the Tories than it would have been to the KGB."

Deselection proceedings were started against Mr Brown after he was convicted of causing criminal damage at the home of his former lover in 1990. Since his departure from parliament Mr Brown has fallen on hard times. He is doing the Edinburgh "knowledge" to become a taxi driver after failing to start a new life in Hong Kong as a steward in a golf club. "I lost touch with Gordievsky. I don't even have a pension from the KGB. More's the pity."



Elenor Chetwynd, whose ambition is to take charge of a match at Twickenham

Elenor, 'the Man Eater', sets her sights on Twickenham

ELENOR Chetwynd, who gave up playing rugby when she became 11 because of Rugby Union rules, will today preside over a junior match between her home town of Aspatria in Cumbria and local rivals Wigton.

The Boxing Day derby, played before the clubs' adult teams take the field at Aspatria's Bower Park ground, is a further step on the path that Elenor, possibly the youngest female referee in the country, hopes will eventually take her to

Twickenham. "I was a bit nervous of blowing the whistle at first, as the boys laughed at me. But now I have refereed a few games I have more confidence, and the teams have to realise that I'm in charge," she said.

Elenor began playing mixed rugby at the age of eight, and by the time of her enforced retirement she had captained the Aspatria under-15s to a tournament victory and played for two county teams. "The Rugby Union doesn't allow mixed

teams above the age of 11," she said. "But then my mother suggested I should train to be a referee. I love it, my ambition is to referee an international at Twickenham."

Elenor, who took a written test after taking charge of ten under-nine matches, can now referee 14-year-olds. Her father Vince, a 40-year-old teacher, said: "Anyone who thinks she's a pushover on the field is soon put in their place. The kids she plays with affectionately call her 'the Man Eater'!"

Patients of HIV surgeon call for advice

By Lin Jenkins

HUNDREDS of former patients of a leading surgeon diagnosed as HIV positive have contacted health officials over Christmas to seek reassurance. A telephone line set up yesterday after the identity of the ear specialist was disclosed took more than 200 calls in the first four hours.

A spokesman for Greater Glasgow Health Board said many of Professor George Browning's patients could be ruled out of the investigation. "There has been a steady flow of calls, but there has been no wave of panic," a spokesman said. About half the callers could immediately be ruled out of the investigation, and the other half had a possibility of contact, of whom one or two might need further advice. Health officials were trying to trace about 700 patients Professor Browning has treated over the past ten years.

The professor, who is in his mid-fifties and a leader in his field of inner-ear surgery, was diagnosed as HIV positive on Thursday. He agreed to be named publicly to help officials to narrow down the list of former patients after speculation over the identity of the surgeon concerned. His move also came after two Scottish newspapers named the wrong surgeon on Saturday.

Since August 1991 Professor Browning has operated one day a fortnight at Gartnavel General Hospital, Glasgow, where he has treated about 200 patients. For six years before that he worked at Glasgow Royal Infirmary, where he carried out between 400 and 500 operations.

Dr David Goldberg, an epidemiologist engaged in the tracing operation, said: "I think this decision was a remarkably quick and courageous one."

The surgeon's field of micro-surgery on the inner ear lessened even further the already minimal risk of a patient having been infected by him, the health board said. In all such cases worldwide, there was no recorded instance of a patient being infected by a surgeon.

THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

Do our Hogmanay quiz and win a sporting weekend for two on Speyside (and a taste of Aberlour for every entrant). Today and tomorrow (see page 29)



Iain R. Webb gives a fashion editor's guide to the essential sales, on Wednesday

Exclusive offer: up to one-third off trips on Le Shuttle to Calais with your car, on Thursday

The Times four-page Calendar of Sport 1995, on Friday



The top 20 pop songs of all time — and Jonathan Meades's Restaurants of the Year, both on Saturday



Ron Brown, centre, with his arms around double agent Gordievsky, left, and fellow MP Bill Mitchell

Woman is burnt to death in churchyard

By Kate Alderson

POLICE are still trying to establish a motive for the killing of a woman who was set on fire in a churchyard after being kidnapped.

Tracy Mertens, 31, died 12 hours after being found in the village of Eaton, Cheshire. She had been doused in petrol and set on fire by two men who abducted her in Nethells, Birmingham, where she was visiting relatives. Every part of her body had been burned except the soles of her feet.

A villager who lives near the church called the emergency services after discovering Miss Mertens. "She was just barely conscious. She was in a terrible state," the villager said. Miss Mertens, who lived in Rochdale with her two children aged 11 and 12, had not suffered any other injuries.

Cheshire, West Midlands and Greater Manchester police are involved in the hunt for the killers. Chief Inspector Kevin Thompson said: "It was an horrific attack but at this stage there is nothing to indicate what the motive was."

Police seek ex-husband after woman shot dead

By Catherine Milton

A MAN freed halfway through a four-year jail sentence for attempting to kill his ex-wife, was yesterday being sought by police after she was found shot dead and her lover stabbed in the head.

Police warned the public that Phillip Manning, 41, was dangerous and said they wanted to talk to him about the shooting of his former wife, Margaret Whitcombe.

The couple's 11-year-old son Daniel, who is believed to have witnessed the attack, was too traumatised last night to give police details of the tragedy. The killing happened as Ms Whitcombe was spending Christmas with her new lover, Neil Jones, 42, at the family home in Aberillery, Gwent, during the small hours of Christmas Day.

Police have appealed to Mr Manning to give himself up and warned the public not to approach him. Mr Manning was released from prison in October. Detective Superintendent Ian Johnston, who is leading the murder hunt, said: "We think in all probability Daniel did witness the attack, but he is too traumatised to tell

us anything at the moment. Mr Manning is obviously a dangerous man and I would appeal to him to give himself up as soon as possible."

Det Supt Johnston added: "The young boy is being cared for by relatives, but he doesn't know yet that his mother died in the attack."

Neighbours were stunned by the killing. Janet Thomas, 42, said: "It's too awful to think about. Everyone around here



Manning: wanted by murder hunt police

is stunned. Margaret was a lovely woman who doted on Daniel."

Gwent Police said yesterday that they had taken the unusual step of naming the suspect on grounds of public safety.

Police arrived at the house at 12.06am after receiving their first call about the attack at 12.03am. Officers found Daniel outside. The dead woman and the injured man were inside.

Police are not sure which victim was attacked first, nor was it clear if the attacker was lying in wait for the couple, or if he burst in on them.

A spokesman said that part of Mr Jones's head was virtually sliced off in the attack and his hand was also slashed with a sharp instrument, possibly a machete.

Mr Manning is 5ft 6in, of slim build, and wears his greying hair in a pony tail. He was last seen wearing a black leather jacket, jeans and trainers. He is believed to own a silver-grey Ford Sierra.

Mr Jones was said to be a "stable" condition in hospital last night.

Crew and passengers celebrate Christmas on QE2

Plain sailing in Bermuda Triangle

By Tim Jones and Tom Rhodes

CREW aboard the ill-starred QE2, sailing through the Bermuda Triangle, were yesterday said to be glassy-eyed with fatigue as they tried to give passengers a good Christmas.

As they attempted to make merry in a big rolling sea en route to the island of St Lucia, passengers laid the blame for the debacle firmly on the shoulders of Cunard's board of directors. But they agreed things were gradually improving since they had set sail late from New York after the flagship liner had been detained by the US Coast Guard, which declared areas of the vessel unsafe for passengers and crew.

Peter Ludlow, from Camberley, Surrey, who, with his fiancé, Merilyn Wesley, paid more than £7,000 for the trip from Southampton, said: "Gradually, they are getting there. There is a

team of Canadian plumbers on board who are working round the clock to get things right. But whole areas of the ship are still closed to us which is depressing and disheartening. The cold water is still warm and brackish although we no longer have to flush the loos with ice buckets."

Mr Ludlow, a diamond cutter, said: "The crew have been fantastic. They have been very embarrassed by what has happened. They are working around the clock to help us and are glassy-eyed with fatigue. The captain gave us a cocktail party last night and was charming but he had only had two hours sleep. We lay the blame on the shoulders of the board of Cunard. The ship should never have been allowed to leave Southampton in the state she was in."

Mr Ludlow, who described the ship as she was crossing the Atlantic as a

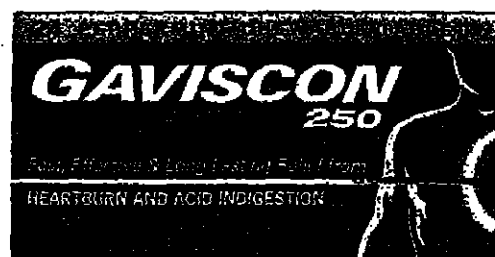
"floating Bosnia" said that although he had been offered full compensation he did not know whether he and Mrs Wesley would be joining other cruise-goers in pursuing claims through the American or British courts.

"The fact is that we are virtually cut off from the outside world and have been told very little of what is going on. We shall have to take further decisions once the cruise is over."

He said it was sad the ship would not be calling at either Fort Lauderdale in Florida or the Caribbean island of St Martin — considered by many to be one of the best ports of the entire trip. "It's a shame we have to miss that, but we have all decided to enjoy ourselves for the rest of the voyage and put the troubles behind us for the time being."

He plans to consult solicitors in London on his return in January.

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Atticus
14 Kensington Church Street, London W8 (071-376 0059).
Until Jan 31, 20 to 50 per cent off most autumn and winter shoes.

Blooming Marvellous
6 Mount Parade, Mount Pleasant Roundabout, Cockfosters, Barnet (081-441 5582).
Until Jan 31, 30 to 50 per cent off most maternity, children's wear and women's wear.

Bluthners
8 Berkeley Square, London W1 (071-753 0533).
Until Jan 31, good reductions on excellent range of grand and upright pianos and stools. Hopkinson Apollo upright down from £2,580 to £1,995.

Boots Children's Wear
Stores nationwide.
Inquiries: 0800 495581.
Until mid Jan, reductions of one-third available on half the range.

Do It All
Branches nationwide.
Inquiries: Freephone 0500 300321.
Until Jan 26, Victoria bathroom suite reduced from £599.99 to £399.99. Many reductions on wallcoverings, paints and bathroom suites.

Episode
53 Brompton Road, London SW3, and stockists nationwide. Inquiries: 071-589 5724.
Between 25 and 30 per cent off most autumn/winter items.

Esprit
6 Sloane Street, London SW1 (071-245 9139); 165-167 Kensington High Street, London W8 (071-376 0012); 82 King's Road, London SW3 (071-589 7211); in Whiteleys, Queensway, London W2 (071-229 7436) and branches.
Between 30 and 50 per cent reductions on selected autumn/winter stock, including women's fashion blazers from £129 to £64.50.

FROM TOMORROW

Knickerbox
More than 70 stores nationwide. Inquiries: 071-284 1744.
Until mid Jan, between 30 and 50 per cent off selected autumn/winter ranges.

Ravel
Branches nationwide.
Inquiries: 071-631 0224.
While stocks last, up to 50 per cent off selected ladies, men's and children's shoes.

Stirling Cooper
102 Oxford Street, London W1 and branches nationwide. Inquiries: 071-487 3783.
Until Jan 20, up to 50 per cent off selected autumn/winter clothes.

The Rejected Shop
235 King's Road, London SW3 (071-352 2750) and branches.
Until Jan 31, half-price reductions on a range of two and three-seater sofas.

Russell & Bromley
24 New Bond Street, London W1 (071-629 6903) and branches nationwide.

House of Fraser Stores
Army & Navy, Victoria Street, SW1 (071-834 1234); Bakers, Kensington High Street, W8 (071-937 5432); Dickins & Jones, Regent Street, W1 (071-734 7070); D H Evans, Oxford Street, W1 (071-629 8800); Frasers, Edinburgh (031-225 2472); Glasgow (041-221 3880).
Classic tie-belt women's Admyna coats reduced from £199 to £99. Selected Feminella coats reduced by 50 per cent (sale starts Dec 26 in Scotland). Range of Tefal Ultra-base Provence blue non-stick cookware and priced between £10.49 and £21.99 reduced to between £4.99 and £10.99. Range of white Gourmet oven-to-table ware reduced by more than 50 per cent priced between £3.99 and £7.99 reduced to between £1.99 and £3.99.

Liberty
Regent Street, London W1 (071-734 1234).
Until Jan 24, long silk Liberty scarves reduced from £59 to £15.99; Lacroix and Ungaro scarves from £85.99 to £49.95. Antique blue and white Chinese ginger jar lamp bases

Carrys
Branches nationwide.
Up to 50 per cent off all products. Interest-free credit available on selected ranges.

Dixons
Branches nationwide.
Generous savings on many items. Interest-free savings on selected ranges.

Rambles
Branches nationwide.
Until Jan 29, special reductions on TVs, washing machines, computers, games and cameras.

FROM TOMORROW

Arding & Hobbs
Clapham Junction, London SW11 (071-228 8877).
Up to 50 per cent off selected linens, cookware, electrical and china. Baukette washing machine reduced from £599.99 to £379.99. JVC Nicam stereo deluxe television from £799 to £569.

Debenhams
Oxford Street, London W1 (071-580 3000) and branches.
Big savings in many departments (sale starts Dec 26 in Scotland).

Fenwick
New Bond Street, London W1 (071-629 9161).
Until Jan 17, up to 50 per cent off current designer-wear collections including Nicole Farhi, Mani by Giorgio Armani, Paul Costelloe, Jasper Conran, Cerruti, Betty Jackson.

Next
54-58 Kensington High Street, London W8 (071-938 4211) and other branches nationwide.
Until mid Jan, many reductions of up to 50 per cent. (Sale begins Dec 26 in Scotland.)

Selfridges
Oxford Street, London W1 (071-629 1234).
DKNY women's jackets reduced from £340 to £170; Jean Paul Gaultier jeans from £98 to £49; Betty Jackson selected styles reduced including jackets from £415 to £207. Up to 30 per cent off selected lines for men.

Allders
Basildon (0266 527858); Bromley (081-464 6533); Camberley (0276 692123); Chatham (0634 401377); Croydon (081-850 2577); Hull (0482 24353); Portsmouth (0705 821221); Sutton (081-642 6000); Woking (0433 766488); Elytham (081-850 9911).
Creda washing machine reduced from £399.99 to £279.99. Savings of 50 per cent on selected linens, cookware,

Electrical goods. Reductions on women's fashions and menswear.

Deans
High Street, Yeovil (0935 74444).
Up to 50 per cent reductions on Jaeger, Viyella, Liz Claiborne, Country Casuals, Windsmoor, Wallis, Eastex, Alexon and Jacques Vert.

Lewis's
Liverpool (051-709 7000); Manchester (061-235 3200); Hanley (0782 202331); Leeds (0532 431313); Oxford (0865 244911).
Until Jan 28, substantial reductions in all departments. Blue Cross sale continues for two weeks until Feb 11.

Owen Owen
Basingstoke (0246 582555); Chester (0244 323122); Coventry (0203 633533); Ilford (081-514 7272); Ipswich (0473 286439); Redditch (0527 585000); Slough (0753 526942).
Until Jan 28, big savings in fashion and household items. Blue Cross sale continues for further two weeks until Feb 11.

Ricemans
St. George's Lane, Canterbury (0227 766866).
Until Jan 21, up to 50 per cent off women's and men's wear and between 10 and 15 per cent off selected electrical items.

Austin Reed
103-113 Regent Street, London W1 (071-730 6789) and branches nationwide.
Women's faux fur-collared coats reduced from £280 to £195, suede jackets from £105 to £99. Men's wool suits reduced from £250 to £199, wool/cashmere jackets from £125 to £99. (Canary Wharf and City of London shops start Dec 28.)

Barberys
15-22 Haymarket, London SW1 (071-930 3343); 165 Regent Street, London W1 (071-734 4060).
Until Jan 31, women's trenchcoat reduced from £475 to £265, men's trenchcoat from £500 to £285.

Gieves and Hawkes
1 Savile Row, London W1 (071-434 2001); 18 Lime Street, London EC3 (071-283 4914); and branches in Bath (0225 463839); Cheltenham (0242 221418); Chester (0244 337576); Edinburgh (031-225 7456); Portsmouth (0705 821351).
Pure wool suits reduced from £495 to £245 (London only), wool trousers from £125 to £60, raincoats from £295 to £145, leather hand-lasted shoes from £190 to £95. (Sale starts Dec 28 in Lime Street.)

Jaeger
200-206 Regent Street, London W1 (071-494 2060) and branches nationwide. Inquiries: 071-734 8211.
Up to 50 per cent off all merchandise, including alpaca coat from £339 to £199.

Quiset
35 Brompton Road, London SW3 (071-584 5439).
Thirty per cent off all stock and 50 per cent off selected items.

Pringle
93 New Bond Street, London W1 (071-705 4600).
Until Dec 31, selected knitwear, including cashmere, reduced by 30 per cent.

Scotch House
2 Brompton Road, London SW1 and 94-96 Regent Street, London W1 and branches. Inquiries: 071-581 2151.
Until Jan 31, between 25 and 50 per cent off, including ladies' cashmere knitwear from £140 to £99.50.

Simpsons
Piccadilly, London W1 (071-734 3002).



Window shopping: those patient enough to have waited until after Christmas will be well rewarded

from £89 to £49. Many generous reductions throughout the store including men's ties, linens and one-third off range of fabrics.

Thomas Pink
85 Jermyn Street, London SW1 and branches. Inquiries: 071-498 2202. Dec 27 onwards in Jermyn Street. Reductions on all stock.

Bally
246 Oxford Street, London W1 (071-629 6045) and all branches.
Until Jan 31, up to one-third off selected ladies' and men's shoes and accessories.

Habitat
196 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (071-631 3880); 203 King's Road, London SW3 (071-351 1211) and branches nationwide.
Until Jan 22, discounts throughout the stores include 50 per cent off Jardin double bed with headboard, 50 per cent reduction on selected bedlinen.

Heal's
196 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (071-636 1666); Tunbridge Wells (0433 576715).
Until Jan 22, Vorion 5ft x 6ft 6in bed reduced from £900 to £799, Yuli rattan sofa from £745 to £500, 50 per cent off selected fabrics, 20 per cent off David Mellor classic cutlery.

Maples
145 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (071-387 7000) and 19 stores. Inquiries: 0345 585851 (local rate).
Buckingham and Marquis 3-piece suits reduced from £1,999 to £999. Maples International Wellington 4ft 6in drawer divan from £1,199 to £599.

Purves and Purves
83 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (071-580 8223).
Until Jan 28, up to 50 per cent off ex-display furniture, 10 per cent off orders over £500.

Sharpes Bedrooms
195 Warwick Road, Kensington, London W14 (inside Sainsbury's Homebase) and 130 showrooms nationwide. Inquiries: freephone 0800 789789.
Fifty per cent off fitted bed-room designs.

Lillywhites
Piccadilly Circus, London W1 (071-915 4000).
Until Feb 7, between 25 and 50 per cent off selected stock.

Snow & Rock
188 Kensington High Street, London W8 (071-937 0873); 150 Holborn, London EC1 (071-831 6900); 14 Priory Queensway, Birmingham 021-236 8280; Hemel St Centre, St Albans Hill, Hemel Hempstead (0442 341321).
Until Jan 8, up to 30 per cent off selected brands, plus special ski and binding packages.

Harvey Nichols
Knightsbridge, SW1 (071-235 3000).
Until Jan 18, up to 50 per cent off all international designer-wear. Extra 10 per cent off on first four days of sale for account customers.

Betty Jackson
311 Brompton Road, London SW3 (071-589 7884).

Villeroy & Boch
203 Regent Street, London W1 (071-434 0249).
Until Jan 31, up to 50 per cent off and crystal stemware. Cutlery reduced by 30 per cent. Reductions on selected tableware.

The Fulton Company
169 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (071-636 9984); 138 Notting Hill Gate, London W11 (071-727 9252); 654 Fulham Road, London SW6 (071-736 9190); 169 Finchley Road, London NW3 (071-624 3008); 100 Battersea Rise, London SW11 (071-978 4137); 102 Chiswick High Road, London W4 (081-995 2271); Hythe Bridge Road, Oxford (0865 798747).
Until Jan 30, four-poster beds reduced from £209 to £189, all futon sofas reduced by a minimum of 10 per cent.

Fortnum & Mason
Piccadilly, W1 (071-734 8040).
Many reductions, ranging from one-third off.

John Lewis
Oxford Street, W1 (071-629 7711) and Brent Cross Shopping Centre (081-202 6535).
Until Jan 14, top-quality hand-washed carpets 12ft x 9ft, £595. Peter Reed Egyptian cotton sheet seconds, £23 (double). Special purchase white goose-down duvets 13.5 tog, single £59, double £85, king-size £109.

Peter Jones
Sloane Square, SW1 (071-730 3434).
Until Jan 14, good reductions in special purchase furnishings fabrics and bed and table linen. Seconds in ranges of china.

Bentalls
Kingston-upon-Thames (081-546 100); Lakeside, Thurrock (0780 860077); Ealing (081-567 3040); Worthing (0903 231001); Bracknell (0344 424678); Tonbridge (0732 771177); Tunbridge Wells (0892 525222).
Until Jan 28, Dartington crystal stemware seconds 40 per cent off.

Jenners
8 Princess Street, Edinburgh (031-225 2442).
Until Jan 14, between 20 and 40 per cent off selected autumn and winter merchandise.

Ally Capellino
95 Wardour Street, London W1 (071-940 0768).
Until Jan 31, up to 25 per cent reductions on mainline collection.

Elizabeth David
3 North Row, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-836 9167).
Until Feb 9, twenty to 40 per cent off Le Creuset cookware, 20 per cent off Sabatier and Le Creuset knives.

Racing Green
103-197 Regent Street, London W1 (071-437 4300); 33 King Street, Manchester M2 (061-835 2022), 0345 331177 for a sale catalogue.
Selected classic items down by 30 per cent.

Graham & Green
10 Elgin Crescent, London W11 (071-727 4594).
Reductions from 20 per cent on John Rocha, Rifat Ozbek designerwear, John Smedley knitwear.

Henry's
143 Fulham Road, London SW3 (071-881 1321). Dec 31 for four weeks.
Until Jan 28, ten per cent off luggage, 30 per cent off briefcases, 50 per cent handbags.

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Betty Jackson
311 Brompton Road, London SW3 (071-589 7884).

Christmas 1944: Londoners, sinews stiffened by dramatic example, determined to see out the last act

Theatre's leading lights illuminated darkest days

PERHAPS, amid the drabness and privation of war, any chink of light becomes magnified into a coruscating rainbow. But there is no question that Christmas 1944 on the West End stage was ablaze with talent, and its leading lights were three actors destined for theatrical knighthood: Gielgud, Richardson and Olivier.

At the Haymarket, Gielgud was playing Hamlet to packed houses and rapturous notices. James Agate, the leading drama critic of the age, wrote: "Mr Gielgud is now completely and authoritatively master of this tremendous part. He is, we feel, this generation's rightful tenant of this monstrous Gothic castle of a poem."

Sir John's memories of his triumph are rather more prosaic, for even the Prince of Denmark was not immune from air raids. "I

■ Alerted to the approach of enemy bombers by codewords but sitting tight through the air raids, audiences enjoyed the dawn of a golden age of acting and some classic films, even if the plots were adapted to the times, Alan Hamilton writes

remember lying on stage 'dead' when a bomb dropped into the Thames near the Savoy Hotel. Our scene-dock doors at the Haymarket theatre burst open with a crash and a huge draught blew in. I thought, 'Now we're really going to get it.' We felt that at any moment there might be fearful chaos in the theatre and people would be killed, but the audiences took it with amazing calm."

In his memoirs Sir John reflects on how different audiences were

in the First World War, when revues ran to houses packed with khaki. "In the Second War, with the Blitz and then the VIs and V2s, it was amazing that audiences came to the theatre at all, but there was a feeling of grim determination. I remember going to see *Swan Lake* at the Sadler's Wells Ballet one afternoon and watching the little swans doing their very intricate dance, crossing their feet, when suddenly a V2 went over. They tried not to look up in the air

and we all held our breaths till the bomb burst somewhere on the other side of London."

The Old Vic was bombed out of its home in Waterloo Road. But by Christmas 1944 it was established in a temporary home at the New Theatre, with Ralph Richardson in *Peer Gynt* and Laurence Olivier in *Richard III* creating what one critic considered the dawn of a golden age of acting. Olivier recalled years later: "Never before had I known general approbation, expressed equally by my colleagues, the public and the critics."

Among those critics, J.C. Trewin in *The Observer* wrote of the Shakespeare: "It is the marriage of intellect and dramatic force, of bravura and cold reason, which so distinguishes Mr Olivier's study." In *The Sunday Times*, Agate wrote of the Ibsen: "I thought that the

CHRISTMAS AT WAR



production was superb, that Mr Richardson was excellent in all three characters, and that everybody else died or got married or went mad more than competently. I left the theatre humming."

For those with lighter tastes, Coward's *Blithe Spirit* was in its

fourth year at the Duchess, while his *Private Lives* had been revived for Christmas at the Apollo. "It was, as it usually is, a great success," the author smugly noted.

And there was, of course, pantomime, with a choice of Nervo and Knox's *Babes In The Wood* or Hermione Baddeley's *Cinderella*.

But it was in the cinema that most people found escape, warmth, companionship and entertainment. The auditoriums were permanently packed and at the end of an evening's show the manager would often run the whole programme again, flashing the words "Red Roses" on the screen if enemy bombers had been sighted crossing the channel.

For Christmas, escapism was the order of the day. Cinemas could choose between a Technicolor remake of the 1930 *Kismet*

starring the dashing Ronald Colman and the sultry Marlene Dietrich, or Joan Fontaine in *Daphne du Maurier's Frenchman's Creek*, or Dick Powell as Philip Marlowe in the classic *Farewell My Lovely*. David Lean's cinematic direction of *This Happy Breed*, adapted by Noel Coward from his own play, had Robert Newton, Celia Johnson and the ubiquitous John Mills enjoying enormous success by evoking a recent pre-war past.

But the war could not be kept from the screen entirely. Olivier's *Henry V* was a blatant though brilliant exercise in stiffening the sinews for the last push to victory, and audiences cheered at the sight of the destruction of the French knights at Agincourt, never mind that the scene was not in Shakespeare's text.

Death came silently in Hitler's last rage against Home Front

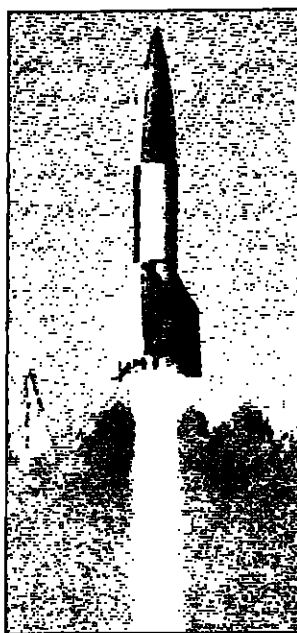
By ALAN HAMILTON

ONE thing in favour of the doodlebug, Orwell wrote in 1944, was that at least it gave you time to get under the table. The throb of its engine, the sudden cut-out and the few seconds of ominous silence gave just enough warning to send citizens diving for cover.

The V2, successor to the V1 which rained death and destruction on London over the Christmas period, made no announcement of its arrival. A witness to an early attack was waiting for his train at the Elephant and Castle. "This awful tearing draught occurred, the sky lit up by myriad colours. It was so silent: no whistle like a bomb, or throb of a doodle, but this awful draught, followed an explosion that left my ears affected for days."

On December 14, a V2 hit the Virginia Plant public house in Southwark. William Grundy, then 13, the son of the landlord, recalled: "There was an uncanny silence after the explosion and a feeling of unreality. I do not remember the building falling in on me but perhaps I was momentarily knocked unconscious. I lay amidst the debris, completely pinned down."

The V2 offensive had begun on September 8, when a rocket fell on Chiswick, killing three people. Citizens guessed at a crashed bomber, a munitions factory accident or a burst gas



V2s hit London on most days in December 1944

main. The blast wave could be felt for several miles. Londoners soon decided to name the weapons Big Buns or Flying Gas Mains.

Fired from mobile launchers in the occupied Netherlands to reach England in barely five minutes, the V2 travelled at up to 3,600 mph and carried 1,650lb of explosive. Wildly inaccurate at first, with many falling harmlessly in the fields of Essex, they gradually learnt their way to the capital with devastating

effect. They came as a demoralising shock at a time that most war news at last seemed good, with the blackout lifted and Paris liberated.

The worst incident occurred on the morning of Saturday, November 25, when Woolworth's at Deptford was full of housewives and children. The direct hit killed 160 and seriously injured another 108. One woman watching in horror said: "There came a sudden airless quiet which seemed to stop one's breath, then an almighty sound so tremendous that it seemed to blot out my mind completely."

As Christmas approached, V2 attacks on London occurred nearly every day. Early on Christmas Eve, a V1 offensive was launched against the Manchester area.

On Christmas Day the skies fell silent, but the respite was short-lived. On Boxing Day a direct hit on Islington killed 68 and seriously injured 99.

V2s were too fast to intercept and there was only an occasional wisp of a vapour trail to give them away. The only defence was to mount bomber searches for their launch sites in The Netherlands, but even those were inhibited by the danger of killing Dutch civilians. Only when The Netherlands was liberated were the Germans forced to withdraw their launchers out of range. The last wartime V2 fell on Orpington, Kent, on March 27, 1945, killing one man.



Princess Elizabeth, centre left, and Princess Margaret, centre right, in the Windsor Castle pantomime

King's message of hope to the nation

By ALAN HAMILTON

FROM the royal apartments of Windsor Castle, King George VI broadcast his 1944 Christmas Day message to a worldwide audience estimated by the BBC to be nearly 400 million.

To the nation and the Empire, he offered at last a glimmer of hope. "We do not know what awaits us when we open the door of 1945. But if we look back to those earlier Christmas days of the war we can surely say that the darkness daily grows less and less. The lamps which the Germans put out all over Europe, first in 1914 and then in

1939, are slowly being rekindled." The King, with only a little over seven years left to live, was already tiring from the strain of the war, and his health was soon to give cause for concern. But his broadcasts remained full of resolution, and he had managed to conquer his debilitating stammer.

"Among the deepest sorrows we have felt in these years, and the one we feel most, is the grief of separation — families rent apart by the call of service, people sundered from people by the calamities that have overwhelmed some, while others have been free to continue the fight. We have

rejoiced in the victories of this year not least because they have broken down some of the barriers between us and our friends, and brought nearer the time when we can all be together again with those we love."

The King himself was spared separation. He spent Christmas at Windsor in the company of the Queen and his two daughters, enjoying the traditional royal pursuit of the season — *Old Mother Red Riding Boots*, a private pantomime starring Princess Elizabeth, on leave from her motor mechanic's course in the Auxiliary Territorial Service, and Princess Margaret.

A blithe spirit on stage as sirens sounded

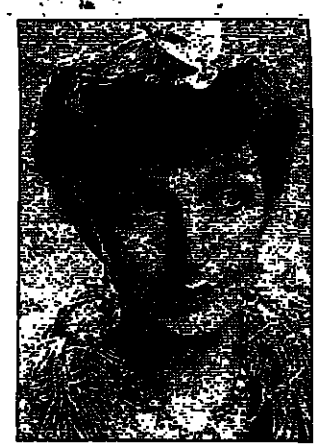
By DOMINIC KENNEDY

WHEN the actress Joan Hickson stepped onto the stage of the "Q" Theatre on December 21, 1944, she was about to become part of theatrical legend.

The Philip King farce *See How They Run* was being given its premiere at the little theatre, now demolished, in Kew, southwest London. "It ran for quite a long time," said Miss Hickson, who played the role of Ida alongside Joan Sanderson as Miss Filling.

Indeed it did. *See How They Run*, set in a country vicarage, was acclaimed as the funniest farce of the century. Miss Hickson and her fellow players transferred for a long run at the Comedy, and the play has often been revived.

Like many actors, she continued to work through the war. The summer of 1944 saw Miss Hickson in *Lady Precious Stream* at the Open Air



Joan Hickson in a role some 50 years ago

theatre in Regent's Park. During air raids, the actors had to continue their performances.

Miss Hickson, now 88, interviewed at her home in Essex, said: "I always remember we had to go on. It was very alarming. We kept one eye on the sky to see what was coming over. We used to feel the audience were being damned stupid because they sort of hurried themselves on the ground."

She imitated the disdainful look she used to give her terrified audience, hiding beneath their seats. "It was ridiculous, sort of, 'Can you hear me from there?'"

"It's amazing when you think of what we did during the war," Miss Hickson said. "You just did your job and there you were. I hope to God we don't have another war."

As a young woman, Miss Hickson had to overcome the prejudice of her family of teachers to achieve her ambition to become an actress. "I wanted to ever since I was a tiny girl and put my hat back to front and danced in front of my mother's long glass mirror," she said.

"I had a tough time. It wasn't very respectable in those days. My aunt Aggie — she was about four feet tall — drew herself up to her full height and said, 'What is Joan's destination to be? which she thought was the gutter, you see.'"

Miss Hickson, appointed OBE in 1987, is a recent incarnation of Miss Marple. She now devotes her time to recording the works of Agatha Christie as talking books. "I have been jolly lucky in my life," she said modestly, "because I have kept in work."

TOMORROW

By Christmas 1944 Harold Payne had lost seven stone after three years in a Japanese prison camp. Yet the young lieutenant and other POWs celebrated in style.

Lines of love sustained romance in wartime

By BILL FROST

WHILE the rest of her family played parlour games, drank stout and ate cold chicken or spam with bubble and squeak, Winifred Garwood went to bed early on Christmas night and prayed that the man she hoped to marry was safe.

The 22-year-old civilian clerk with the Pay Corps also prayed there would be no air raids that night. If the doodlebugs or V2s came in over the Thames estuary, the roar of the anti-aircraft battery on the waste ground near her home in Welling would deprive her of sleep once more.

By the light of a torch she read the letters from her fiancé George Mutton, an airframe fitter attached to Bomber Command. She had kept them unopened for weeks as a "Christmas present to herself". Each night since they had been delivered in late November she had fought down the compulsion to tear them open and find out how George was faring.

Winifred knew he was "somewhere in India", but moving up to a frontline base. "I had quite a struggle with myself to keep the letters sealed because I was just so worried," she says now.

However, on Christmas night 1944 it was a struggle for Winifred to open them. She had been ill: first a bout of pleurisy and then agonising chilblains all over both her hands. The letters "lifted her heart", Mrs Mutton remembers. As she reads them again today they bring back all the yearning and passion she felt for George. "I missed him so badly when he was away. We had known each other since we were 14 and have been in love ever since."

On Christmas morning Winifred had returned home to Welling from hospital where she had been undergoing treatment for her chest complaint. The family had "warmed her up with three



Winifred Mutton, who has kept her letters from 1944

large gin and oranges" and a place close to the fire.

Winifred's father, a London taxi driver who had given up his job to work at the Woolwich Arsenal, had somehow found a chicken and, much to the family's joy and amazement, a dozen bananas. Her fiancé's parents arrived shortly before lunch and the conversation turned to the fortunes of war. The euphoria of D-Day had been much dampened by the German breakthrough in the Ardennes.

"That Christmas we had no sense that the war was almost over. It just seemed like it might drag on for years. I had not seen George since he was called up in 1943. Of course the

letters helped, but neither of us could write what we really wanted to because it would be seen by the censor," recalls Mrs Mutton, now 72.

But she treasures the letters still, and, in retrospect, her memories of Britain's last Christmas at war. Their own story had a happy ending. "We lived on a knife edge all the time, never knowing whether the man you loved was safe. Thank God he was one of the lucky ones to come home." George was demobbed in 1946, having served in India with Bomber Command. They married that year and George, now 74, went to work in the aircraft industry.

The Scotch House.

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Arms shipments puts France on Islamic hit list

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

THE hijacking yesterday of an Air France airliner confirms what France has always known — it is in the front line of Algeria's bloody civil war.

Historical ties to Algeria, geographical proximity and a large Algerian community meant that Paris had little chance of escaping the conflict. But the support offered by the French authorities to the military regime of President Zouari have earned them deep hatred among Algeria's fundamentalists. More than 30 Frenchmen have been killed in the three-year conflict, a higher death toll than that suffered by any other foreign community.

Last month, Ali Belhadj, one of two leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front (FSI), had issued a warning to France: "From January 1, 1995, suicide attacks will be carried out against French diplomatic missions and interests in the Arab world."

Was Saturday's hijacking prompted by this warning, a week before it was due to come into force? Or was it an attempt by the even more extreme Armed Islamic Group to steal a march on the salvation front by striking on Christmas eve?

In the confused and shadowy world of Algerian terrorism, it is difficult to know to what extent the front and the Islamic group are in conflict. This much, however, is clear:

both will have read reports that France has been delivering military equipment to President Zouari's hardline Government.

According to the French press, a succession of flights from Rennes airport, Brittany, has carried helicopters, arms and infra-red night sights to Algeria over the past few months. Two weeks ago, possibly concerned about the threat of reprisals, France suspended arms shipments, but the helicopters have continued to be delivered.

To Algeria's Islamic terrorists, this alone is enough to warrant attacks on France. But they also hold Paris responsible for providing financial and diplomatic support to President Zouari at a time when other Western nations believe he should be pressured to negotiate. Above all, they blame France for encouraging Algeria to cancel elections in January 1992 just as the front was on the verge of victory.

This decision signalled the start of a conflict that has left 20,000 people dead, many of them killed by the military, a recent report by Amnesty International said. With government forces guilty of widespread torture, and terrorists murdering schoolchildren and journalists, it is a "war like no other", according to witnesses quoted by Amnesty. Further, it is a war with no end

in sight. In October, there seemed grounds for optimism when President Zouari lifted prison sentences on M. Belhadj and his fellow front leader, Abassi Madani, confining them to house arrest as a prelude to talks.

But it soon became clear that neither side was prepared to compromise and that both were banking on military victory, whatever the cost. Since then, the conflict has increased in intensity, with a particularly vicious attack on a group of Scouts at the beginning of November, provoking widespread outrage.

In the face of this escalation, France has continued to call for a negotiated solution, while at the same time providing logistical support to President Zouari — a policy described by critics as contradictory and ambiguous.

To these critics, French diplomacy has been undermined by differences between Alain Juppé, the Foreign Minister, and Charles Pasqua, the Interior Minister. The latter is concerned with preventing a mass exodus of Algerian refugees across the Mediterranean. M. Juppé insists that the front must be brought to the negotiating table. For the terrorists such nuances matter little. To them, France is an enemy and a target.

Police poised, page 1
Leading article, page 13

NEWS IN BRIEF

Saddam accuses the West

Nicosia: President Hussein of Iraq accused the West in a Christmas radio message of violating Christian principles by continuing to maintain the sanctions imposed on Iraq for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"Our people have been confronted for several years by behaviour that is completely opposite to the values of Jesus Christ's message — behaviour by unjust, tyrannical governments which falsely claim a link with that message," he said. "Through their aggressive policies and by imposing an unjust blockade ... the West has gone too far in their grudge against Iraq's people and even against their values." (Reuters)

Ceausescu vigil

Bucharest: Sympathisers and those nostalgic for the certainties of communism held a Christmas Day vigil at the grave of Nicolae Ceausescu, the Romanian dictator executed five years ago. (Reuters)

Top Sikh dies

Chandigarh: Zail Singh, the first Indian president from the minority Sikh community, died yesterday, nearly a month after being injured in a car crash. He was 78. (AP)

Polar triumph

Oslo: Liv Arnesen, a 41-year-old Norwegian, has become the first woman to reach the South Pole alone. She arrived on Saturday after trudging 745 miles from Hercules Inlet, in 50 days. (Reuters)



President Clinton and his daughter Chelsea leave a Washington bookstore after some last-minute Christmas shopping. Mr Clinton bought half a dozen thrillers

12 hurt by Hamas suicide bomber in Jerusalem

BY BILL HUTMAN

A SUICIDE bomb attack by Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, injured 12 people in Jerusalem yesterday. The bomber carried between 10lb and 20lb of explosives in a handbag that blew up at a bus stop in the city centre.

The attack provoked a particularly fierce reaction in Israel when it was revealed that the terrorist belonged to the Palestinian police, who are supposed to support the peace process and condemn terrorists. Hamas sources said the bomber had carried out the attack to protest against the recent killing by Palestinian policemen of Hamas activists in Gaza.

The victims yesterday included an Arab man, who is in serious condition, a Jewish man, whose condition is said to be moderate, and ten others with light injuries. Iman Radi, the bomber, was killed instantly when he was blown in half. Israeli security sources said the bomb may have gone off accidentally and that the attacker had intended to board a bus before exploding it. Another Hamas suicide bomber recently blew up a Tel Aviv bus, killing 22 Israelis.

Hamas vowed yesterday to step up attacks on Israeli targets. Its units would "continue their armed attacks to free the Palestinian territory", the group said in a leaflet.

Yassir Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, strongly condemned the attack. He said it was particularly misguided at Christmas.

Israeli security personnel have found themselves at a loss in containing a recent wave of Hamas suicide attacks. Assaf Hefetz, the Israeli police chief, said: "Once a bomber has set out on a mission it is nearly impossible for us to stop him." Moshe Shahal, the Israeli Police Minister, said: "We have been expecting an attack such as this for some time. We were lucky that the attack did not end with far more casualties."

The attack came just after 6am on a main thoroughfare near Jerusalem's central bus station. Wreckage from the bus shelter, which adjoined a kiosk and phone booth, was spread dozens of yards around the explosion site.

Security sources said the terrorist had probably intended to board a bus carrying soldiers at the bus stop at the time of the explosion. They believe the bomb misfired or that the bomber was panicked into setting it off early.

"I heard a big boom, and smoke and debris flew everywhere," said on man who had been in a bus near the explosion. "One guy came running up to me, his hand bleeding, and then collapsed," he added.

The explosion shut down traffic in the city for most of the morning as police sappers searched the area to ensure that there were no more bombs.

Atlantic dinner for one

BY ADAM SAGE

GUY DELAGE celebrated Christmas in traditional style yesterday, enjoying a slap-up meal with some of his closest companions. Present, for instance, were 40 tuna as well as a strange striped fish that has been with him for a week.

Today, M. Delage will get back to the serious business of trying to become the first man ever to swim the Atlantic.

When he announced his plans last month, many professionals described the 42-year-old from Nantes, west France, as a madman who had no hope of success. But ten days into the 2,400-mile three-month journey, his backers say he is set to swim into the record books.

Not that it has been easy. On the first night after setting off from the Cape Verde Islands, a shark ate a floating anchor attached to the solar-powered raft that drifts along behind him carrying food, a radio and a fax. He has also overcome seasickness.

He plans to swim ten hours a day, with a ten-minute break and a cereal bar every two hours, and hopes to reach Martinique, in the Caribbean, in 90 days.

Hollywood gossips feast on exploits of wild bunch

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

FROM the palatial armed fortresses of Beverly Hills and Bel Air to the sunshine strips of Miami's South Beach, the usual glitz and glamour that dominates the expensive parties and dinner tables has been superseded by conversations of convictions, assault and battery.

The puzzling murder case surrounding O.J. Simpson, the former sporting idol, has been merely the tip of a considerable iceberg, which has seen such scions of the Hollywood establishment as Jack Nicholson, Dudley Moore and Mickey Rourke brought before the courts on various charges.

For Moore, the 59-year-old star of *Arthur*, the alleged beating of his girlfriend Nicole Rothschild is no longer an issue, the couple will marry in April and she expects their baby in July. The demonic Nicholson, 57, has settled out of court after smashing the windscreen of a black Mercedes with a golf club in Los Angeles when the vehicle cut in front of him. Rourke, 42, has also had misdemeanour charges dropped after he had allegedly kicked and slapped his estranged wife and co-star of *Wild Orchid*, Carrie Otis. They were last seen holding hands in November.

Others have not been so fortunate. Grace Slick, the 55-year-old former lead singer of Jefferson Airplane, received a six-month suspended sentence for levelling an unloaded shotgun at Tiburon in California. She agreed to attend Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and perform

200 hours of community service. James Caan, also 55, has not been charged for brandishing a semi-automatic pistol in March but a lawsuit is still pending against the actor for punching and allegedly throttling the actress, Leesa Anne Rowland. At 64, even Maximilian

Schell is worth mention for the sexual harassment of a production executive on *Candice in the Dark*. The suit has been resolved and Schell has apologised publicly for remarks that embarrassed the woman.

The list is seemingly endless and,

although it is the older generation of established stars who lead the compendium of Hollywood's Most Wanted, rising personalities also feature. Johnny Depp, for example, has been charged with his early morning decoration of a New York hotel room. The 31-year-old actor has

been told to behave for six months during which time he must pay the hotel \$9,776.12 (£6,266) in damages.

In New York, Christian Slater was arrested at Kennedy Airport on Friday after he tried to board a flight carrying an unlicensed handgun, police said. Slater, who stars in the film, *Interview with the Vampire*, was arrested after he set off a metal detector. Sergeant John Mariano said. He was charged with criminal possession of a weapon.

Wesley Snipes, of *Passenger 57* and *Demolition Man* fame, paid more than \$7,000 for speeding on his motorcycle. Amanda Donohoe, the 32-year-old former British star of *LA Law*, lost her licence for a year after being convicted of drink-driving. John Denver, meanwhile, plans to plead not guilty to similar charges after he missed a curve and crashed his Porsche into a tree in Aspen.

A case is still pending against Eric Douglas, the comic son of Kirk, for possession of cocaine, while Willie Nelson, the country singer, is facing a misdemeanour charge for possessing marijuana when he was found asleep in his Mercedes near Waco, Texas.

As the wild children of the film and entertainment industry have reinvented themselves as an even rowdier older generation, many in Hollywood are hoping the new year and the moral rectitude of the new Republicans may encourage a return to family values. History, however, does not suggest that this will be the case.



Slick: suspended sentence for aiming unloaded gun



Moore: allegedly beat up the girlfriend he marries in April



Simpson: charged with two murders, including ex-wife

Spirit of peace raises Arafat image over Bethlehem

FROM BILL HUTMAN IN BETHLEHEM

THOUSANDS of pilgrims and local Christians, buoyed up by the prospects for peace between Israel and the Palestinians, celebrated Christmas here in a way unseen for years.

Fireworks boomed overhead on Christmas Eve as hundreds of worshippers packed the Church of the Nativity, the traditional birthplace of Jesus, for midnight Mass. But, in a reminder that the city remains under occupation, heavily armed Israeli soldiers kept careful watch.

Nevertheless, Israeli army restrictions were relaxed compared with past years, reflecting the effects of the peace agreement signed by Israel and the

Palestine Liberation Organisation last June. For the first time the army allowed a Palestinian flag to fly over Bethlehem town hall and even permitted posters of Yassir Arafat, the PLO's chairman, to be hung overhead in Manger Square.

During midnight Mass, Michel Sabbah, the Latin Patriarch, called on Palestinians and Israelis to speed up the peace process. "The atmosphere of fear and instability continues," he said.

Palestinian shopkeepers in Manger Square said they had not done such good business since the Palestinian uprising against Israel began in December 1987. A police spokesman said that more than 10,000 visitors came to Bethlehem before Christmas.

more than three times as many as in previous years.

During the uprising, Christmas celebrations were kept to a minimum by Palestinians as a form of protest against Israeli occupation. This year, however, Palestinian leaders sanctioned widespread festivities. Local Palestinian Christians and pilgrims from around the world began pouring into Manger Square early on Saturday, causing severe traffic jams throughout the area.

Shops and stalls in Bethlehem were decorated for Christmas for the first time in years. Choirs sang Christmas carols late into the night with many onlookers joining in. "We are happier now, but we are still waiting for Israel to leave," said one Palestinian woman.

Israeli officials have indicated that Bethlehem is likely to be among the next batch of areas that will be turned over to the Palestinians, giving residents here cause for optimism. The Palestinians today control only the city of Jericho, in the West Bank, and a large part of the Gaza Strip, where Mr Arafat runs the newly created Palestinian National Authority.

Nabil Shaath, the authority's Planning Minister, visited Bethlehem on Christmas Day and called for Israel's quick withdrawal from the city and other occupied areas.

"I'm very happy, delighted, it's almost a dream come true," he said of the Christmas celebrations. "I think the fruits of peace are starting to show."

Spanish corruption jolts King

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

THE Christmas Eve broadcast from King Juan Carlos of Spain had more poignancy than usual when, looking particularly sombre, he referred to "certain instances of corruption".

Last Friday Mario Conde, his banker and personal friend became the latest former top Spanish figure to be tarnished by corruption allegations. He was reprimanded in custody without bail, accused of defrauding one of Spain's leading banks.

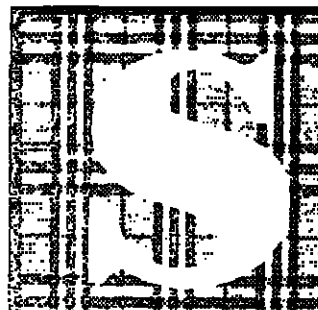
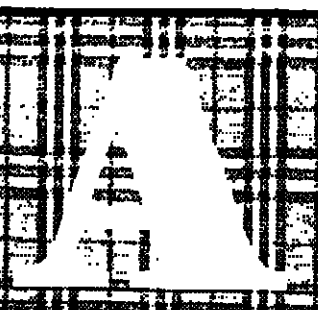
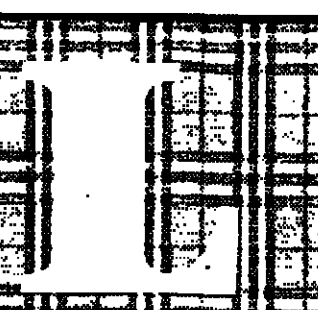
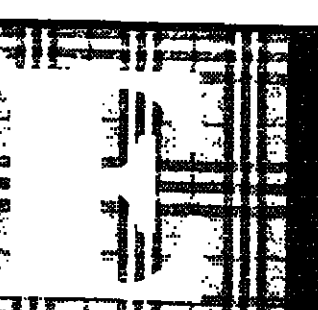
The King, 56, spoke of "a crisis of values in Spanish society" and called for exemplary action. Without referring directly to the Socialist government, in power for the past 12 years, he inferred that it had really been the corrupt administration itself that had allowed businessmen, like his friend, to err.

"The law is equal for everyone, both men and women, the same for those in both the private or public sector," he said. "But there exist some inexcusable failures to give an example among those with public responsibility. This explains why certain acts of

corruption have raised feelings and justified uneasiness and indignation, because the bad example erodes ... the moral value of democracy."

He asked for calm while the abuses were investigated. Señor Conde, 46, faces criminal charges relating to his six-year chairmanship of Banesto, which ended almost exactly a year ago.

Manuel García Castellón, the investigating judge, claims Señor Conde, who faces up to 12 years in jail, defrauded shareholders of \$53 million (£34 million).

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Crash jet may have had illegal cargo of rocket fuel

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

THE mystery cargo loaded into the hold of the South African Airways jumbo jet Helderberg hours before it plunged into the Indian Ocean, killing all the 159 passengers and crew, may have been a volatile American-made rocket fuel that ignited in mid-air and began to burn uncontrollably. The cargo had been labelled "tropical fish".

The South African Department of Transport said at the weekend that it was preparing to reopen the official, inconclusive, inquiry into the disaster on November 28, 1987.

Mr Justice Cecil Margo, who flew Spitfires in the Battle of Britain and is an acknowledged expert in aeronautical accident investigation, led the original inquiry with the help of specialists from Britain and the United States. The inquiry was unable to pinpoint a cause for the crash of the Boeing 747 Combi on its flight from Taiwan to Johannesburg, but sabotage was ruled out.

Judge Margo said at the weekend that he would support moves to reopen the inquiry if the evidence warranted. A spokesman for Mac Maharaj, the Minister of Transport, said the department would make a careful new study of the inquiry's report on the disaster.

The *Weekend Star* in Johannesburg carried the first reports about the mystery cargo. The newspaper quoted Rennie van Zyl, chief investigator of the disaster and now chief director of South Africa's Civil Aviation Authority, as saying he suspected that passenger aircraft were used to transport dangerous cargo during the sanctions era.

"In those days there were probably people who would do anything for *wolk en vaderland* (people and fatherland), and we have had problems with false declarations of cargo," he said. "In the case of the Helderberg we investigated many possible causes for the ignition, including ru-

Delhi jail's inmates learn the message of Christmas

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

THE 9,300 prisoners at Delhi Central Jail, India's largest, are celebrating Christmas and the new year with Father Christmas, who is a Hindu with the vaguest knowledge of what it is all about.

Ranjan Kumar Sinha, formerly a circus clown, received a crash course from foreign prisoners about the meaning of the Christmas message. He said he found it simple to understand and had no trouble teaching it to fellow Hindus. "It is not much different from Hinduism really. It seems to say the same sort of things."

Nigel Beardsley, 31, from Maidenhead, Berkshire, who has been remanded in custody on drugs charges for the past 20 months, wrote a play called *The Beginning of Life*, half in Hindi and half in English, with Father Christ-



Members of the cast of *The Beginning of Life* at Delhi's Tihar prison. The play was written by a Briton remanded on drugs charges

mas in the starring role. Most performers were drawn from the 140 foreign inmates, but several Hindus are involved.

Mr Beardsley's Hindi, learnt while waiting for a trial date to be set, is sufficient for the endeavour. "We wanted to send the Christmas message of goodwill to Hindu, Sikh and Muslim prisoners," he said. "It seems to have gone down well. There used to be misunderstanding between Indians and foreigners, but that has all gone."

The play is being taken "on tour" during the holiday per-

iod to the four prisons that make up the huge complex on the outskirts of Delhi. The pantomime particularly enthralled the prison's 40-odd children, who are allowed to stay with their mothers in jail until the age of five.

The ecumenical experiment was the idea of Kiran Bedi, the director-general of prisons in Delhi, who has won international awards in recognition of her work at the jail. A once bleak, brutal and corrupt institution is now regarded as a model for the rest of India, despite the overcrowding and lack of funds. "Christ does not belong only to Christians," she said. "There is no better crime-prevention message than 'love thy neighbour'. A person who teaches non-violence belongs to all humanity."

Pentagon financed Belorussia arms deal

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

FUNDED in secret by the Pentagon, a company run by Frank Carlucci, former President Ronald Reagan's Defence Secretary, has teamed up with a Canadian arms dealer to buy a weapons system from Belorussia, the former Soviet republic.

Mr Carlucci, who is also a former National Security Adviser, is chairman of BDM International, a Virginia firm that has supplied components of a Russian missile system to the Defence Intelligence Agency. The operation to obtain the S300, the Russian equivalent of the Patriot missile used by the allies in the Gulf War, began two years ago.

The existence of the Pentagon-financed operation was revealed last week when a Russian-made Antonov-124 transport plane was seen parked within sight of the interstate highway in Huntsville, Alabama. Further investigation disclosed its cargo to be components of the S300, destined for the defence agency's nearby Missile and Space Intelligence Centre.

The system includes missiles, a missile launcher and tracking radar. Its normal price is \$128 million (£83 million). However, the American company, assisted by Emmanuel Weigensberg, a Canadian arms dealer, was able to secure a better deal by acquiring the parts in Belorussia.



Carlucci: teamed up with Canadian dealer

Santa's army keeps the peace in Haiti

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN PORT-AU-PRINCE

FATHER CHRISTMAS has not visited Haiti in a long time, so the children here say. As the country's economic woes in recent years increased, so the Christmas spirit drained away.

But "Tontons Noel" (Uncle Christmas), as the Haitians call him, is back — with heavily armed reinforcements. Santa's army, in the guise of 6,000 American soldiers, was out in force on Christmas Day to make sure the festivities were peaceful.

The troops were on the look out for their near namesakes, the Tontons Macoute, the paramilitary thugs and enforcers who have terrorised the country since their founding by "Papa Doc" Duvalier.

But the days of the Tontons Macoute and their successors, the ruthless Attaches, are over. Now, two months after the

return of President Aristide, Haiti's American rescuers are proudly hailing their success in sending Haiti's junta into exile in epic Hollywood terms, as a triumph of good over evil. Mr Aristide has won praise for his political maturity and moderate views on reconciliation, a far cry from those who once portrayed him as a radical, mentally unstable anti-American.

"An historic change is taking place here — you can feel it in the air," said Brian Atwood, director of the American Agency for International Development, which is spearheading a multimillion-dollar effort to foster economic recovery.

He may be right. Considering the fears about the American intervention in Haiti, the achievements so far have exceeded all expectations.

Rwanda shifts French focus to boost East African ties

FROM TOM WALKER IN KIGALI

THE Rwandan Prime Minister, Faustin Twagiramungu, has expressed suspicion of French foreign policy and admitted that the new Kigali regime is looking for increased contact with English-speaking East Africa.

Mr Twagiramungu said he was shocked by Jacques Delors's withdrawal from the French presidential race. M Delors's socialism, he said, had represented a "new hope for Africa". By contrast the conservative French politicians were "very difficult to deal with".

His remarks will further strain relations between Paris and Kigali after French reluctance to give European Union money to the new Government, dominated by the Rwandan Patriotic Front. France's support for the previous Hutu Government, and its military assistance to the

former presidential guard, that helped to orchestrate the genocide in April, will not be forgotten by Tutsis and Hutu moderates.

"I don't know how France wants to divide Africa up," said Mr Twagiramungu in his bullet-scarred and heavily-guarded office. "Do they still have colonial ideas? I am told that Jacques Chirac wants to have a Gaullist policy in Africa. What does that mean?"

He said Rwanda quite naturally teared towards trade links with neighbouring East African countries, because they represented its only links with the Indian Ocean. "We are not part of central Africa as some might think. We do our commerce with Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, we are reliant on them. For these countries English is the most useful language. We want to

co-operate with all Africa." He said that while French and Kinyarwanda were the country's two official languages, English was of "great potential benefit" as was Swahili.

His remarks are borne out by reality: many of the Ugandan Tutsis now coming back to Rwanda after 30 years of exile at the rate of several hundred a day speak only English and Swahili. French is often not understood in the few restaurants in Kigali.

The Prime Minister said that loans given to Rwanda by the EU, the United States and Belgium showed that "little by little the international community is understanding our position". He described the Government's main objective as the return of refugees from the camps in neighbouring Zaire and Tanzania, and the pursuit of those involved in the genocide.

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Evidence of super-large dinosaurs □ Teeth examinations testify to a biting cold in the Middle Ages □ Man's oldest footprints to be reburied



THINK dinosaurs, and you think big. But the latest evidence from Argentina suggests that, hard as it may seem, you'll have to start thinking even bigger still.

Rodolfo Coria, a palaeontologist from Argentina, believes he may have unearthed the biggest dinosaurs of all in both the vegetarian and the flesh-eating class. Step aside, *Supersaurus*. Bow the head, *Tyrannosaurus rex*.

The claims are not universally accepted, because the fossils are so far incomplete. But when Dr Coria reported on the evidence at a recent meeting of the US Society for Vertebrate Palaeontology in Seattle, he found supporters.

The monster vegetarian, which he has been digging up since 1980 with the help of Jose Bonaparte of the Museum of Natural History in Buenos Aires, is called *Argentinosaurus*. Excavated so far are pieces of the creature's backbone and a huge segment of a hind leg, indicating that it belonged to a class of dinosaur called, for obvious reasons, the titanosaurs.

Raising the titanosaur



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

These flourished in South America in the Cretaceous, about 100 million years ago.

From the fossils, the two palaeontologists estimate that *Argentinosaurus* had a hind limb almost 15 feet long, and measured 23 feet from shoulder to hip. If its tail and neck were in proportion, it would have been just short of 100 feet long.

This is not the longest dinosaur. *Seismosaurus*, from New Mexico, may have been 30 feet longer, but *Argentinosaurus* had bulk as well as reach. Dr Dale Russell of the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa, who has seen

the bones, told Science: "This is the only dinosaur that I feel secure might have approached 100 metric tons."

The only possible challenger might have been the creature that owned a single massive vertebra found more than a century ago in Colorado, and now lost.

Not content with locating the Frank Bruno of dinosaurs, Dr Coria has also come up with a carnivorous dinosaur that seems likely to have outweighed the current champion, a *Tyrannosaurus rex* nicknamed Sue, and found in South Dakota.

Tooth truths



THE Norsemen who settled in Greenland in the early Middle Ages flourished for a while, but finished up as dead as the dinosaurs.

Studies of teeth from Norse skeletons has now helped to provide the reason why. The teeth show that in the 350 years between 1100 and 1450, the temperature in Greenland fell by about 1.5°C.

A drop of this order was probably enough to make life there impossible.

Dr Henry Frick of the University of Michigan and colleagues used oxygen isotopes in the enamel of the Norse teeth to trace the temperature change. The ratio of two oxygen isotopes, oxygen-18 and oxygen-16, in snow and rain depends on temperature. The snow that fell in Greenland was formed from water vapour evaporating from oceans further south. The water molecules containing oxygen-16 are lighter, evaporate more easily, and are

less likely to fall as snow than those containing oxygen-18.

Both effects depend on temperature, so the warmer it was, the higher the proportion of oxygen-16 in the Greenland rain and snow. When it fell, and the settlers drank it, the isotopes were locked for ever into the enamel of their teeth.

The teeth showed that the isotopic ratios changed with latitude, as they should, and then they followed the change over time in southern Greenland.

Feet first



NOT since Robinson Crusoe stumbled on traces of Man Friday has a trail of footprints caused such excitement as those identified at Laetoli in Tanzania in 1977.

They are the oldest known evidence of early man walking upright, created 3.6 million years ago as three hominids walked across wet volcanic ash, leaving footprints that became fossilised. The prints were found by mem-

bers of a team led by Mary Leakey and show that man's earliest ancestors walked upright and free-striding, much as we do.

Now the government of Tanzania and the Getty Conservation Institute have begun a project to preserve the prints, which run for nearly 30 yards. Since the prints were found, erosion and the growth of trees along the track have begun to cause damage, although the actual prints were reburied to protect them.

Before reburial the main job will be to excavate the trackway again, remove tree roots, and stabilise the surface. Measures have already been taken to divert rainwater and reduce erosion. When the job is complete, the tracks should be safe, though they won't be visible.

Anybody who wants to see what the prints look like will be able to visit a display at the Olduvai Museum enhanced by using new casts of the footprints taken by the conservation team.

Ms Leakey counts the trackway as one of the most important discoveries of her career. "I'm delighted that the project to preserve the site is now moving forward," she says.

ANDRÉ CAMARÁ

Solving ultimate brain teasers

The presenter of the Royal Institution lectures is tackling one of science's great riddles, says Nigel Hawkes

Susan Greenfield, this year's Christmas lecturer at the Royal Institution, got into science by way of the Greek and Latin classics. "Bloodhunts, fates, the struggle of individual against destiny," she says with a gleam in her eye. "So much more exciting than spirogyra."

Dr Greenfield's subject is the brain and she brings to it a freshness and a cavalier quality that comes from her own unusual origins as a scientist. She is the first woman ever to have been invited to give the lectures, now in their 165th year; they can be seen on BBC2 about lunchtime on five days beginning on Wednesday.

Not for Dr Greenfield the long slog through physics and chemistry, that Via Dolorosa that has left so many girls dismayed at the sheer

factfulness of science. Brought up in west London, she studied the classics in the sixth form at Godolphin and Latimer, inspired by a fine teacher. Having won a place at Oxford, she switched to psychology for her first degree. "I thought I could read Homer in my spare time," she says brightly.

At this point, the idea of science as a career had never entered her head. "I didn't know you could do research as a profession," she says. But then she dissected a brain during a course in neuro-anatomy and was struck by a macabre thought. What if a tiny scrap of tissue got loose and lodged beneath her fingernail?

What did this tiny speck once do? Could it have generated a love for Beethoven, or did it contain the memory of a summer day? Would it have caused its owner to fidget



Dr Susan Greenfield: those who listen to her Royal Institution lectures will be grateful that on this occasion science managed to snaffle one of the brightest of her generation

while speaking? How, in other words, do our personalities and physical characteristics originate from the rather undifferentiated slurry of tissue that lies between our ears?

Then a tutor at St Hilda's, Jane Mellanby, lent a hand. "She said, 'you should be a scientist. It'll be a hoot.' She sent me to see David Smith, a

lecturer in the pharmacology department. I strolled in with a degree in psychology and no formal science at all. David Smith and William Paton, the Professor of Pharmacology, made this huge gamble and took me on."

Dr Greenfield, though modest about her talents — "I don't believe I've got a high IQ," she says — regards this decision as a credit to the flexibility of the Oxford system. "Too many places are too rigid," she says. "They expect all the right qualifications, in the right subjects, in the right order, before they'll let you even start. But so long as you can read and write, you'll pick it up. IQ doesn't really come into it."

The gamble was clearly well judged, because at the end of her first year of research she won a senior scholarship at St Hugh's. She started work on an intriguing discovery made by Dr Smith. He had found that the enzyme that breaks down the neurotransmitter acetylcholine could be released in soluble form into the body. It was found in cerebrospinal fluid, but not in the blood. Was it coming from the brain?

Dr Greenfield found that, indeed, the enzyme acetylcholinesterase was coming from brain cells of the same type that are lost in Parkinson's disease. What it was doing had no connection to its regular function; it appeared instead to be modulating the way these particular cells behave.

Ten years ago, we used to think that communication between brain cells was done only by small molecules going across between them," she says. "But since then there have been reports of all manner of molecules, and they aren't classical neurotransmitters at all. Their job is to bias the action of a cell, to make it behave slightly differently."

The fact that the enzyme is linked to the dopamine-producing cells that are lost in Parkinson's Disease could make the research more than academic in interest. "Parkinson's has lots of causes," she says, "but this could be one element. It could also be

linked to Alzheimer's Disease."

Dr Greenfield's background in the classics gave her an interest in consciousness, the problem that neuro-scientists and philosophers seem suddenly to have rediscovered. She has written a book on it, for publication next year by W.H. Freeman. A second, more academic book is also due in 1995, from Prentice Hall. It is going to be difficult to avoid Dr Greenfield next year.

The RI lectures are aimed at young people, and were started by Michael Faraday in 1826 when there was little organised science education. Faraday gave the lectures 19 times, in the steeply-raked and atmospheric lecture theatre in Albemarle Street. It seats only 450, but the BBC broadcasts, which began in 1966, bring in an audience of a million or so.

"The whole philosophy of the lectures is not to get up there in a pulpit, but to show people a little bit about the brain, what we know and what we don't know," says Dr Greenfield.

The first lecture sets the scene. The brain, she says, has as many neurons as there are trees in the Amazon rain-forest, and as many connections as there are leaves on those trees. Subsequent lectures look at how the brain can be studied, how its components function, how it develops, and how it remembers. "Some will say it is too broad, but others are going to complain that I've missed things out," Dr Greenfield says. "I'm aiming to provide a smorgasbord. Then, if people get excited, they can go further and find out more."

Dr Greenfield is married to Dr Peter Atkins, a physical chemist and, like her, a Fellow of Lincoln College. Dr Atkins is known for a profound disbelief in religion, which he regards as intellectually contemptible.

"He is violently atheistic," says Dr Greenfield, "but I don't go along with him. I think there is a deep-seated need for spirituality in human life." Her father was Jewish, her mother not; when, as a child, she began wearing a

cross around her neck, they suggested she add a Star of David — "so I went jangling to school". They were, she says, fantastic parents who never failed to encourage their children.

As a girl, she was interested in relationships rather than things. "This is true of lots of girls, and it's one reason why

they don't do science. I wanted to express opinions, too, and you can't do that in science until you are a lot older."

The grounding in Latin, Greek and Ancient History provided the confidence that enabled her later to tackle such very different subjects, including the brain, the most mysterious of all. She might, I

felt, have become almost anything she fancied; but those who listen to her lectures will be grateful that this time science managed to snaffle one of the brightest of her generation.

● The Royal Institution Christmas lectures begin on Wednesday on BBC2 at 2pm. An extract will appear in The Times tomorrow.

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NATURALLY BETTER

A Christmas survival guide

If you must over-indulge, take plenty of water — and go out for a long walk in the morning

The firm of D.R. Harris & Company has been trading in St James's as chemists and perfumers for more than 200 years. It is as much a part of the London scene as White's or Boodle's and sells a Victorian cure for a hangover which has spread far beyond clubland.

The cure is so popular that each week between 150 and 200 people struggle through its doors to buy a bottle of Mr Harris's Original Pick Me Up. More is sold by post and it is exported to all those countries where, in the days of empire, whisky was drunk to ease the tensions of expatriate life and gin and tonic to keep malaria at bay.

Mr Harris's successors do not make a secret of the prescription — it contains camomile tincture, spirit of ammonium, compound tincture of gentian, and some oil of cloves and camphor. Nor does Mr Harris use modern Euro-speak to describe how the mixture should be taken — there is no talk of millilitres, for they say firmly: "A teaspoon of the tincture should be mixed in a wineglass full of water and taken not more than three times a day."

Mr Harris's mixture helps, but there is no single medication that will cure all the symptoms of a hangover; they have to be picked off one by one. Alcohol is a diuretic, as any beer drinker can vouchsafe. The resulting dehydration is one of the many causes of a hangover.

Paradoxically, although the rest of the body becomes dehydrated, the brain swells when the blood vessels leading to the cerebral tissue dilate, hence the throbbing nature of the pain.

At least a pint of water should be taken before going to bed after heavy drinking in an attempt to ward off a hangover. The next morning it should be supplemented by another one to compensate for the fluid loss during the night.

Another important feature of the hangover is the reduction in the blood-sugar level (hypoglycaemia). As the blood sugar falls, so does the erstwhile drinker become irritable, not only because he has a headache but because he is also tired, dispirited and listless.

Hypoglycaemia also affects the memory, so that in the older drinker a hangover can put paid to its last vestiges. Dehydration can be forestalled by high fluid intake.

headaches can be eased with soluble analgesics and irritated guts soothed with indigestion mixtures. But if hypoglycaemia is to be beaten the drinker needs to eat a protein-rich breakfast as well as carbohydrate. If the thought of bacon and eggs is too repulsive the reveller may feel better if he perseveres and in any case finishes his porridge.

Dr Clive Long, the head of psychology at St Andrew's Hospital, Northampton, has warned that although over-indulgence at Christmas is only part of the seasonal festivities for some, for true alcoholics, it can be a strain.

They have a double problem: they must remain relaxed and at ease although by nature many are tense, but at the same time they have to resist the temptation to drink.

In Dr Long's experience the alcoholic's strength of will wins at Christmas. He is able to make a supreme effort for a short time, but tends to weaken and relapse thereafter. Many alcoholics, it seems, need to be readmitted in January for another course of treatment.

It would be a gross simplification to think the problems which occur in families in the aftermath of Christmas are confined to those induced by hangovers; most people even at Christmas drink wisely. There are other very good reasons why solicitors specialising in the divorce courts are at their busiest in January.

Before the advent of cheap motor travel, only the rich held huge family Christmas parties; now everybody can muster a family gathering which would not have disgraced a Victorian squire. In the smaller houses imagined wrongs can fester and family tensions can heighten.

If houses are not large enough to provide the space in which the naturally solitary can flourish, and the argumentative seek isolation, greater use must be made of the world outside. Plenty of exercise in the fresh air will keep everybody happy.

Help to blow away a hangover, if there is one, will enable those who are feeling emotionally overstretched to rearrange their guards and will induce the physical tiredness necessary for the other great ingredient needed for a good and happy family Christmas — a sound night's sleep.



Dr THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

Julia Llewellyn Smith meets the man who may transform our understanding of Christianity

In search of gospel truth

When Carsten Thiede sat in church yesterday morning, he will have listened to the Gospel with a renewed sense of awe. He had good reason to. After nearly a year of painstaking detective work, Dr Thiede, a German papyrologist, is on the eve of publishing an article which may transform our understanding of Christianity: a theory which attempts to prove that the Gospels were written not, as has been argued by earlier scholars, long after Christ's death, but by his contemporaries or their followers: by men who heard the Sermon on the Mount and walked the road to Calvary.

As revealed in *The Times* on Saturday, Dr Thiede's argument, with its potentially staggering implications, is based on three flimsy scraps of ancient paper, which have lain in a glass case in the library of Magdalen College, Oxford, for most of this century.

Until now, scholars believed that these few verses of Matthew dated from the late second century. Dr Thiede thinks differently, insisting that these papyrus fragments are older, that they are, in fact, the oldest example of the New Testament ever found.

His theory, which will be published in *Zeitschrift für Papyrologie* on New Year's Day, is bound to stir up huge debate and to make Dr Thiede the academic equivalent of the lottery winner. "I'm still surprised at the general interest. I look at these things from the papyrological point of view," he says.

I am talking to Dr Thiede, 42, at a restaurant in his home town of Paderborn, northern Germany. I was expecting a shabby, mousey boffin; instead I am approached by a tall man with watery green eyes and a thick silver beard, dressed far too elegantly ever to sit at a British High Table without arousing deep mistrust.

Nor, as it turns out, is Dr Thiede's experience of the world confined to fragile pieces of papyrus. Born in Berlin, he read history at university before taking a post-doctorate in modern languages at Queen's College, Oxford, where the great papyrologist Edgar Lobel fired his interest in ancient texts. He spent seven years as a lecturer in Geneva before moving to London, where he worked for the Institute of Germanic Studies, wrote books and produced documentaries for the BBC on such subjects as writers in Nazi Germany.

Thiede married an Englishwoman, and in 1986 moved to Paderborn, where he became the director of the Institute for Basic Epistemological Research. They have three children: "One is four and three-quarters and I have twins who



Above, Dr Carsten Thiede, who claims that the Gospels were written by Christ's contemporaries. Below, the fragment from Matthew 26: 14-15

are two and three-quarters." This Teutonic attention to detail is the key to Thiede's success. With systematic determination, he resolved to travel the world and restudy every one of the 98 papyri of the first three centuries. "Anyone could have done it," he says, shrugging.

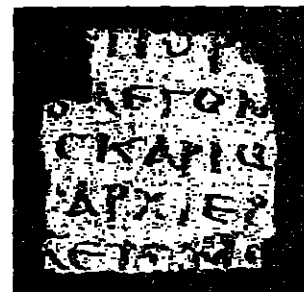
He knew of the Magdalen papyrus, which had first been written about in 1953, and was curious to see it. "It doesn't take much imagination to realise that in 40 years things have happened," he says. "I managed to sneak a few days in Oxford."

"I went to the library to look and at first sight it was obvious that there was more in the papyrus than appeared before. I copied what I could see, went home, read what literature there was on that fragment, and realised it was well worth re-analysing. I was surprised that no one else had noticed this, but people took the text for granted. They just said 'Fine, Matthew 26. We have seen this before,' and didn't look any further."

papyri, asked the college to send me photographs and wrote my paper. The college read it and thought it was all right and when I sent it to a couple of journals they agreed to publish it."

He makes it sound so simple. In fact, Thiede's claims come after months of scrupulous investigations, drawing on vast funds of knowledge. "You have to know the sociology, the topography, the archaeology of a place to be able to date any papyrus."

Straightforward carbon dating could only indicate the age of the papyrus, not when the text was written. To date the fragment, Thiede needed to analyse its use of language, no easy task when sources were



limited to three scraps of paper measuring 2cm by 3cm.

Nonetheless, Thiede had enough material to decide that the papyrus's text was characteristic of a particular scribe, working long before the second century. "The earliest scribes use a very spare form of Greek geared towards a

readership uninterested in rhetorical flourishes and embellishments. It was good Greek, but it was not the language of classical literature. They just wanted to get the message straight."

That message, if Thiede is to be proved accurate, was an eyewitness account of Christ's life and death. The implications are overwhelming, but Thiede, aware of potential pitfalls, is reluctant to hyperbolise. "I certainly didn't do it for sensationalist purposes," he explains earnestly. "Some of the things I'm saying are matters of debate. It's work in progress, a starting point for something new. But that's not for me to decide. There will be some confirmation and

some negative assessments." Thiede is a practising Christian, a Church of England ordained reader, who frequently stands in for the British army chaplain at the Nato base in Paderborn. This, he admits, "adds to the satisfaction", but he is understandably cautious to place too much stress on his faith.

One fellow of Magdalen said the discovery made the hairs stand up on the back of his neck, I tell Thiede. Does he feel the same way? "Oh, oh," he says, looking flustered. "If I think hard enough it might be yes." He smiles, allowing himself a moment's elation. "But yes, yes, yes, there's a certain amount of excitement. I can certainly see his point."

The whitewashed cowboy

The Wild West is America's fairy-tale, and in the traditional Hollywood version the good guys wore white, the bad guys wore black and they all had the pale faces of John Wayne or Randolph Scott. But in the heyday of the cowboy from the 1860s to 1890s, many had a different complexion. According to revisionist American historians a quarter of the cowboys on the cattle drives taking Texas beef up the Chisholm trail were black, typically two blacks in an eight man crew.

The first cowboy recorded shot in a gunfight in Dodge City, for example, was nicknamed "Tex" — a black man. The first cowboy held in the new stone jail in Abilene was also black. So was Dick Shafer, the town marshal of Boley, Oklahoma, who was shot dead by a white gunman. Yet somehow the black cowboy became the forgotten cowboy, wiped out of the fairy-tale.

One long time black cowboy, the Reverend Mack Williams, nicknamed *El Coyote Prieto*, the black coyote, now in his eighties, was a taphand at the O'Connor ranches in South Texas until he took to preaching.

Elegant in his cowboy hat, bandanna and boots, he recalls working with black, white and hispanic cowboys on the range and then rolling into town to catch the latest Hollywood Westerns for 15 cents at the local cinema. "I thought it was strange," he says of the movie version of his Western life, "no black cowboys."

But there were Deadwood Dick, for example, real name Nat Love, was born in a Tennessee slave cabin in 1854. After the Civil War his adventures as a dollar-a-day wrangler were printed in an autobiography that makes John Wayne sound like a wimp. "Horses were shot from under me, men killed around me... a man's work was to be done and a man's life to be lived."

Or there was Jim Beckwourth who discovered Beckwourth Pass in the Sierra Nevada mountains. In the 1950s film *Tomb Raider* Beckwourth was celebrated — but played by a white actor.

Probably the most famous black cowboy was Bill Pickett, described by a contemporary as "the greatest sweat

Gavin Esler tells how Hollywood turned the black heroes of the Wild West into a palefaced fairy-tale



Ex-cowboy: the Rev Mack Williams

and dirt cowboy bar none". Pickett is credited with inventing the rodeo sport of bulldogging — jumping from horseback on to about a top of cow, wrestling the steer to the ground and then (copying the technique of bulldogs) biting the steer's lips in his teeth to control it. Every year Pickett's Rodeo, run by his descendants in California, celebrates the black cowboy tradition and this year the United States postal service decided to issue a commemorative Bill Pickett stamp.

It proved politically correct but historically a dud. They used the wrong picture — not Bill Pickett but his brother. "I am not surprised," Pickett's great nephew Denny Pickett says of the mistaken identity of the rodeo star. "Before Bill Pickett got famous he had to

compete as a Mexican." Pickett hid his blackness with the rodeo pseudonym "the Mexican Toreador".

In Buffalo Bill's town of Cody, Wyoming, Denny Pickett, other black cowboys and historians from all over the US gathered at a symposium to remember the forgotten cowboy. One reason blacks were cowboys, they insisted, was that it was a hard and low paid job — traditionally, therefore, a black man's job. "They used to call us boy," one black cowboy said. "And we worked the cows. So we were always cow-boys."

But if blacks were acceptable as real cowboys, they were not when the cowboy became America's cultural icon. Heroism was a white man's job, and black faces were denied a place in the fairy-tale.

"The history books have left us out," complains Cleo Hearn who heads the black professional cowboy rodeo association. "Everybody could be a cowboy, except a black person."

At the Cody gathering, historians and old time cowboys pointed to an odd paradox. On the cattle drives, on the range, even in the bunkhouses, there was often equality between blacks and whites — the same pay, food and prospects for advancement. But the closer they came to "civilisation" in towns or saloons the more racism and segregation became apparent.

According to the cowboy historian Jim Geary towns meant "separate eating facilities, separate rooms for the blacks". But on cattle drives, "In a situation where you are trusting your life to one another, you can't afford to be a racist."

"Nigger, don't let the sun set on you here," was one welcoming sign in a railroad town in Wyoming which calls itself "the Equality State". A poor black who became one of Wyoming's more prosperous ranchers was Jim Edwards, known as "Nigger Jim". He is reputed to have entered a local saloon, laid down enough money to buy everyone a drink and called out: "You all call me Nigger Jim today, but someday you're gonna call me Mr James Edwards."

It has taken a long time, cowboy. The Forgotten Cowboy is on BBC Radio 4 tomorrow at 11.02am.

"IT'S TO DIE FOR!"

—Scar

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SEE IT AGAIN WITH THE WHOLE FAMILY THIS CHRISTMAS

Matthew Parris



Hong Kong Merrily on High: Will there still be harmony here when the British have packed up?

At 6.30pm: Guests begin to arrive. 6.45pm: ADC escorts you, your wife, the girls and houseguests from your sitting room to the Main Hall. 6.50pm: Cathedral Choir enters the Main Hall, singing the first carol, "Once in Royal David's City". Fifth Carol: "Midnight Stars" (Cantonese): "Ming sing chun lan yeh may yung"...

Or are you dreaming? Chris Patten was not dreaming last Wednesday. He really is the Governor of Hong Kong. These were his instructions. This was the Governor's carol service. I attended.

Government House here in Hong Kong is a rambling, two-storey building in a walled paradise of a garden, with monsters at its gate. From every window you stare straight into the shins of a skyscraper. Giant office blocks miles high crowd around the garden walls, eyeballing you point blank, raising their steel and glass fists at this lovely, priceless patch of anachronism. Traffic roars around the outside.

Within, calm reigned. As the cathedral choir entered to the strains of "Once in Royal David's City" (Mr Patten glancing mischievously at his daughters to check that they were entering the spirit of the occasion), I remembered the last Governor's Christmas party I had attended. It had come flooding back. Funny how fresh in your mind are scenes from when you were six.

It was Nicosia, Cyprus, 1955. I had a bandage round my head. I forget why. "Been in the wars, young man?" the Governor asked me. I was too overawed to speak. General Sir John Harding was a hero, and on our side — though London was going wobbly. Harding was on the heels of the terrorist Grivas and would surely catch him, and Grivas would be hanged, and there would be no more terrorism, and the colony would continue peaceful and British forever. In the meantime, I was not to kick any old tins while walking to school, in case they were bombs.

He looked very tall to me at that party, but was about 5ft 4in. Harding was always flanked by two hulking plain-clothed bodyguards. When you saw a short, middle-aged man in a trolley hat walking between two young giants with guns in their pockets, you knew it was the Governor, my mother said. She thought it made him a sitting duck for the Cypriot EOKA terrorists, led by that desperado Colonel Grivas. Harding's Cyprus ended in failure when he was brought home. His successor, Sir Hugh Foot, wanted an independent Cyprus. That Cyprus too has ended in failure.

Yes, I remember the party well. I remember, for instance, that all the children there were British. To have encountered Cypriot children would have been odd. Of course you saw them in the streets, but this was our Governor, our party. It was not for Cypriots.

And now, 39 years later, another colony, almost our last. I looked at the song-sheets for "The First Noel" and found them printed also in Chinese. I looked around at the faces of children and adults. Two-thirds were Chinese. All Mr Patten's staff were there, English and Chinese — some 500 friends and citizens. Not everyone knew all the carols, but we were doing our best.

"Following the last carol, you may wish to say a few words, ending with the fact that there are four staff high-service certificates to present. ADC announces the awards as follows, handing you the certificates for each: Mr Wong Chun-hay, Nelson (chauffeur); 20 years' Meritorious Certificate. Mrs Chu Chan Yim-wah (Chu Tai) (laundry lady); 20 years' Meritorious Certificate.

7.30pm: You advise guests that light refreshments will now be served. Mingle with guests for 20 mins, approx. After 40 mins (approx), Chris Patten was still mingling with guests. At the bidding of parents, many small oriental faces and a few small English faces would appear behind and beside him, nervous, while proud fathers took photographs. "I'm like one of those cardboard cut-outs at Blackpool," smiled the Governor, "with spaces to put your face through." Upstairs, by his library shelves, more Chinese families were taking photographs of each other, standing in front of the Governor's books.

I looked around the carpeted hall, the high ceilings, the paintings of colonial luminaries on the staircases... at all that glorious wasted space. What will Peking do with this? Will it be bulldozed for offices? Turned into a museum of British atrocities? A state guesthouse? Another Governor's lodge for a different breed of Governor?

And will the Chinese recognise that this was a good man, doing his best? John Harding tried, and failed. Hugh Foot tried, and failed. Everyone in Hong Kong has a view of how Chris Patten might try, or fail. But might he not just try, as he visibly is, to do what is plainly right? "It needs must be," says St Luke, "that offences come. But woe unto those men through whom they come." A Judaic thought from a far away colony, on Boxing Day.

When the party is over, what will the Chinese do with all this wasted space?

Russia's assault on Chechnya could affect the whole uneasy relationship between the West and Islam

A small battle in the greater war

So far, Islam has been winning the great war against Slav power, which has been fought along a 3,000-mile front from Afghanistan to Bosnia. The Russian defeat in the Afghan war, though it has not brought peace to Afghanistan itself, was one of the decisive events of modern world history.

Guerrilla warfare wore down the second most powerful army in the world, liberated Afghanistan, destroyed the communist regime of the Soviet Union, and freed the now independent Islamic states from the Soviet Union. Defeat in the Afghan war incidentally liberated Eastern Europe, and made possible the reunification of Germany. The true battle of Berlin was fought in the mountains of Afghanistan.

If one draws a line on the map from Kabul to Sarajevo, it passes close to Tehran and Ankara, just cuts the southern end of the Caspian Sea, and runs about 300 miles south of Grozny. The battle for Chechnya looks as though it will become another defeat for Russia. The Chechens, like the other mountain tribes of the Caucasus, have every reason to detest the Russians, who oppressed them brutally in the Tsarist period and with genocidal ferocity in the age of Stalin. Having survived such terrible oppressions, the Chechens are a hardened people, with traditions of self-reliance, mutual loyalty and criminality — not altogether unlike the Sicilians.

Their battle for independence could easily destroy the rickety Yeltsin regime, as the Afghan war destroyed Gorbachev and the old Soviet Union. The Russian response, a half-hearted, though murderous, invasion supported by indiscriminate bombing, has neither the resolution nor the ability to destroy a popular movement of this kind. Bombing Grozny, killing civilians and an American war photographer, is about as intelli-

gent a response as it would have been for the RAF to bomb the Bogside in order to defeat the IRA.

One can have a good deal of sympathy for the Russian general staff, most of whom seem to have been opposed to this blind response. They know what the Afghan war was like. They are trying to protect what remains of the Russian defence capacity from a disintegrating society. They know that Russian soldiers are no longer willing to fire on their fellow citizens. They are lumbered with a Defence Minister, General Grachev, who has shown himself to be stupid, vainglorious and corrupt.

President Yeltsin himself has vacillated, in a familiar way, between doing nothing and doing the wrong thing. The Russian general staff includes some of the most intelligent professional soldiers in the world. To them, the Chechnya campaign must seem a preposterous nightmare. The Russian Parliament has voted against it.

Already the attack on Grozny has shattered the discipline and morale of the Russian army at every level. The political generals have denounced it, but so have the staff generals, some of whom have refused to carry out their orders. So have some of the young officers — always a dangerous group to offend. So have many of the conscripts, who do not regard it as their business to fire on old Chechen women, or on the

many ethnic Russians in Grozny for that matter.

The Tsars at least had the Cossacks — troops trained in pogroms and repression — to keep down the Islamic tribes of the Caucasus. President Yeltsin does not even have any confidence in his own "whiff of grapeshot": he has already announced that he will soon put forward new proposals for settling the Chechen problem, "based mainly on using political methods". That "mainly" gives the game away.

William Rees-Mogg

Repression sometimes succeeds: political negotiation often succeeds; half-hearted repression interspersed with half-hearted negotiation has historically always failed. That was the characteristic policy of King Charles I of England. King Louis XVI of France and Tsar Nicholas II of Russia. We know what happened to them.

Juridically, Chechnya is part of Russia, though the claims of other Caucasian tribes to independence have been recognised in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. Ethnically, the Chechens are a Turkic people. In

rejection they are Islamic. Self-determination would make them a small independent state, possibly linked to Azerbaijan, with which there are strong natural ties.

Grozny is a railway city on the route to Baku: many Chechens supported the Mussavat movement between 1912 and 1920. The Mussavats were a pan-Islamic and pan-Turkic party who fought the Red Army in the Caucasus after the Russian Revolution.

Most foreign governments would counsel the Russians to make concessions to the Chechens. Indeed an independent Chechnya would allow the Russians to close the border against the Chechen mafia and make it easier to deport Chechen criminals. That could be an advantage. Yet foreign governments have neither the legal right nor the political capacity to intervene. Their sympathies may be with the Chechen people, but their main interest is in the survival of Russia. So far, foreign governments have seen the Yeltsin regime as the best option for Russia; there is no longer much confidence in that, but there is still a fear that President Yeltsin will be replaced by something worse, perhaps by a period of total anarchy, crime and corruption, perhaps by a fascist and nationalist regime, perhaps by a military one. The United States had already responded by taking some of the pres-

sure off Russia on the issue of Bosnia. Jimmy Carter's mission, which must have been co-ordinated with the White House, has tilted American policy from a pro-Islamic to a pro-Serbian stance, only a few weeks after President Clinton was angry with Nato for its reluctance to bomb the Bosnian Serbs while its peace-keeping troops were still on the ground. America now seems to recognise that the Yeltsin regime is so weak that it might not survive any further concessions. President Yeltsin believes that he cannot afford to anger the Russian nationalists — that is why he bombed Grozny.

In Afghanistan, in Chechnya and in Bosnia, the West has sympathised with Islam against the reality of Slav oppression. Yet the West is also disturbed by the growing power of Islam, partly (but not entirely) because of the importance of oil. The West supported Iraq against the fundamentalism of Iran, but fought a major war against Iraq to defend the oil interests of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states. Islamic fundamentalism now threatens Algeria, Tunisia and Egypt, and the whole Arab area is having to adjust to this pressure.

The little war in Chechnya is therefore no little matter. It is an issue of human conduct. Bombing one's own citizens at random is an act of state terrorism. It could easily lead to the fall of the Yeltsin government, and even to the failure of Russian democracy. It is a battle in the larger war on the frontiers of Slav and Islamic influence. It has already affected relations between Russia and the West, and potentially affects those between Islam and the West as well. The bombing of Grozny has been a Christmas present with a vengeance — the Russian Santa Claus has stuffed a bomb down the world's chimney.

The Cabinet in the year 2000

Politics is a fickle business. So who will prosper, five years on, asks Peter Riddell



RIDDELL ON MONDAY

Boxing Day, 1999: the eve of the new millennium. The frontbenches look very different. Many familiar faces, once thought fixtures, have disappeared. Politics is a transient business. The ambitious may want to be career politicians, but only a handful remain at the top throughout their forties and fifties. Ministers are shifted every two-and-a-half years. After two or three such short stints, most ministers leave the Cabinet.

William Waldegrave once argued (before he entered the Cabinet) that "in politics everyone has 15 years — putting aside the superstars — when their weight can really matter and they have enough experience to use it". He should not bet on it. Most politicians have, in practice, much less than 15 years, in either the Cabinet or the Shadow Cabinet.

A mere seven of the Tory Cabinet of five Christmases ago are still serving — John Major, Douglas Hurd (still Foreign Secretary), Lord Mackay (still Lord Chancellor), Kenneth Clarke, Malcolm Rifkind, Tony Newton and John Gummer. Any Cabinet or Shadow Cabinet includes a mixture of pillars who last a decade or more and shooting-stars who burn out in a couple of years. Members of the Thatcher Cabinet served at that level for an average of just over eight years, including earlier service in the Shadow Cabinet or Edward Heath's Cabinet. But that average was boosted by the 30 years' senior frontbench experience of Lord Hailsham and 22 to 24 years of Lord Whitelaw. Baroness Thatcher and Lord Joseph. More typical were those who spent four to five years at the top.

On the Labour side recently there has been more continuity. Three-

fifths of the Shadow Cabinet of five years ago is still in place. But there had been big changes in the 1980s. Since 1979, the average Shadow Cabinet service, including prior time in Labour Cabinets, has been around six-and-a-half years.

Politics has never offered a smooth hierarchical progression, even when one party is in office for a long time. There tend to be sudden shocks. Ministers also disappear after being shown not to be up to the job, or following some personal peccadillo.

Whoever wins in 1996-97, there will be departures. Mr Hurd may go next summer, and it is hard to see Michael Heseltine staying long unless he suddenly gets a final chance to become Tory leader. Other long-serving ministers, such as Tony Newton and Sir Patrick Mayhew, may go by 1997. Mr Major may leave

within two years of the election. As a cricket fan, he is keenly aware of records. If the election is held in April 1997, he will have been Prime Minister for six years and four months, more than Attlee and nine other occupants of 10 Downing Street this century, including Lloyd George. If he manages a further two years, he will have beaten Wilson, Baldwin, MacDonald and Macmillan. Either way, it would be extraordinary if he were still in No 10 in 1999.

Some familiar faces may still be around in 1999: Kenneth Clarke, Malcolm Rifkind, Ian Lang and Peter Lilley. Mr Lang could easily be Foreign or Home Secretary, while Mr Lilley, the most successful of the right-wing ministers at social sec-

urity, is a possible future Chancellor. But some are men of office rather than opposition, such as Michael Howard, John Redwood and Mr Waldegrave. Michael Portillo looks a factional, rather than a national, leader, while neither David Hunt nor Virginia Bottomley has yet inspired sufficient confidence among colleagues to suggest that either will remain at the top. Stephen Dorrell seems best placed on the centre-left, rather as Mr Major was in the late 1980s, while Jonathan Aitken is the acceptable face of the Right to the Tory mainstream, provided he can stay out of scrapes. From among middle-ranking ministers, the former Scottish MPs Michael Ancram and Gerald Malone may make the Cabinet. If the Tories stay in office, expect promotion for the likes of David Davis, David Curry, Sir George

Young and Roger Freeman (the latter two in the Tony Newton mould), William Hague, Ian Taylor, Roger Evans and David Willetts.

If Labour wins the election, Tony Blair is obliged to form his first Cabinet from the pre-election Shadow Cabinet. But many may not be around for long. The demands of government are very different from the annual popularity contest of the Shadow Cabinet elections. Of the 23-strong Cabinet formed by Harold Wilson in October 1964 after 13 years out of office, just nine survived until the Labour defeat in June 1970. Several current spokesmen will have to improve substantially if they are to measure up as Cabinet ministers. Some shadows, such as Dr Cunningham and Mr Meacher, are now veterans, and might just see through the first two years of a Labour government.

Donald Dewar and George Robertson have both shown the shrewdness and judgment to advance quickly. If Robin Cook took charge of the constitutional reform package, either could become Foreign Secretary. From outside the Shadow Cabinet, Andrew Smith, Alun Michael, Brian Wilson and Alistair Darling could do better than many inside, though none has yet shown the talents which pushed Mr Blair and Gordon Brown to the fore. Some of the brighter entrants in 1992, recently appointed to the whips' office, such as Geoff Hoon, Peter Mandelson, Stephen Byers, Tessa Jowell and Barbara Roche, could prosper in office.

Some current rebels could also come into the mainstream. Among Tory MPs, James Cran and Iain Duncan-Smith could be on the front bench, as could Roger Berry and Peter Hain on the Labour side — though one or two may have reverted to their rebel instincts and have resigned by 1999. Most of the whipless Euro-rebels will have returned to the fold, probably by Easter 1995. But through my crystal ball I see Teresa Gorman in five years' time as leader of the UK Independence Party — protesting about the European single currency which Britain is about to join on January 1, 2000.

Spooky (I)

THE MASTER spywriter John Le Carré has shown extraordinary prescience in his latest novel. Whether he received a tip-off from his intelligence contacts is unclear, but his book is set in the warring, breakaway republic of Chechnya.

The novel was written months ago, long before Russia sent in its tanks and soldiers to try to quell any uprising. It will be published in May and is entitled *Our Game*.

Le Carré has drawn on his experience as a former spy, and has set the book in the period after the Cold War. It features agents tracking each other from the Somerset Levels to the Chechen capital of Grozny.

Characters in the novel describe the republic with feeling. "For the full Christmas experience, try tasteful Grozny in December," says one individual caustically. "Pitch dark, stinks of oil, dogs are drunk, teenagers wear gold and carry Kalashnikovs." The agent elaborates: "It's gone independent. Unilaterally. Moscow's a bit miffed."

Le Carré's typical descriptions continue: "According to recent press reports from the region,

Grozny today is one of the most inhospitable cities on earth." Nothing, sadly, could be closer to the truth this Christmas.

Scent packing

FOR ALL those chaps who received the customary bottle of unwanted aftershave yesterday, I have news from Germany. Research on gift-giving habits among executives in

REMEMBER US, WERE YOUR PARENTS... YOU KNOW, THE PEOPLE WHO BOUGHT YOU THE COMPUTER.



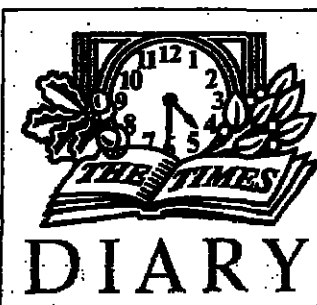
the republic show that fragrances are the staple gift — and that 91 per cent of them are passed on to friends and relatives.

More worrying still for the German present-giver is that some scents are becoming increasingly redundant. Professor Manfred Bruhn of the European Business School in Germany worries that Europe risks an aftershave lake, because more and more executives are growing beards. "Nowhere else is so much money wasted so thoughtlessly," he warns.

Grounded

BACKBENCH MPs dream, somewhat forlornly, of the day they will receive a summons from Downing Street to ministerial office. The vast majority of the 1992 intake already have a foot on the ministerial ladder. Those with both feet still on the ground, however, are forming into a new parliamentary faction: the No Hope Group.

It's the brainchild of the flamboyant, toupee-wearing Tory MP Michael Fabricant, who is still waiting for the clarion call from Downing Street. The group will hold regular meetings, and members will have their own flag, with the insignia of a sergeant-major. Eligible candidates for the group



include Lady Olga Maitland, Bernard Jenkin (whose father Patrick was in Margaret Thatcher's Cabinet), Iain Duncan-Smith (Norman Tebbit's successor at Chingford), and the Tories' only Asian MP, Niranjana Deva.

Fabricant wants to be club president: "I would joyfully accept," he says. "It may be the only parliamentary job I ever get offered."

Spooky (II)

EMERGENCY services are on standby — and I don't just mean the fire brigades, police and ambulances. A ghostbusting service in Cheltenham has set up an emergency hotline for anyone whose festivities are upset by unwanted spectres. "We have noticed that pol-

tergeists are more active during stressful times in a house, and everybody knows how stressful Christmas can be," explains Morven Alexander, the psychic behind the scheme. "I have had three calls in the past few days, and one case has been dealt with already. I have cleared a house belonging to a young family because a ghostly couple was haunting them." Morven says she talks to apparitions to encourage them to move on.

Christmas has been a triumph in the carol-singing stakes. At St Bride's, Fleet Street, they have broken all records. An exhausted but euphoric Canon John Oates has packed in 21 carol services this month. "We have done several more services for corporate firms than last year," he says hoarsely.

Two birds

IN HIS forthcoming autobiography, Sir Rhodys Boyson MP recalls, as an example of parliamentary humour, an encounter from 1979. Labour's Ann Taylor had asked whether he knew that one local authority was reusing 11-plus exam papers which were so old they contained questions about pounds, shillings and pence. "What better way is there," re-



Baby Holly: late, but seasonal

torted Boyson, "to include history and mathematics at the same time?"

Greatest gift

AN EXTRA place-setting was needed for Christmas lunch yesterday at the table of one of London's better-known hosts, Lord Gilmour's son, the eponymous Christopher of the celebrity-filled Covent Garden dining haunt, has an addition to the family. His wife, Mardi, gave

birth to their second daughter on Thursday, and was home just in time to put on the baby's bib for their Christmas feast. The bundle of joy was a hefty 9lb 6oz when she finally arrived, more than a week late. "She has more hair than my first daughter, Leonora, when she was born — and certainly more than I have," says the balding restaurateur. "We've called her Gabriella Holly."

P.H.S.

هكذا من الأصل



THE END OF THE RUNWAY

Air piracy must remain a crime that never pays

Hijacking, a peculiarly vile form of politically motivated violence which appeared to have fallen into disuse, has once again brought terror and death to innocent people at the Houari Boumedienne Airport in Algiers. The hijackers are reported to belong to the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) — a terrorist organisation fighting to impose extremist Islamic rule in Algeria. Their action has, as they doubtless intended, drawn fresh attention to the bloody conflict which has torn this north African country apart since the suspension by the military leadership of elections in January 1992.

Yet if a positive lesson can be distilled from this appalling act, it is this: there is no sympathy anywhere for the crime of hijacking. There is no sanctuary to which hijackers might take themselves, and be received with open arms. Even in quarters which continue to justify the use of violence for political ends, there is little support for those who regard the confinement of innocent civilians — and their immoral employment as pawns in a jihad — as a legitimate option. Hijacking has reached the end of the runway.

Air piracy, begun in 1961 when a man forced a commercial airliner from Miami to Cuba, reached its peak in the late 1960s and early 1970s. At first, governments — including the Heath government in Britain, when it released Leila Khaled — were tempted to make deals to save lives. Arab terrorists and politically motivated extremists thus discovered that the seizure of an aircraft and its forcible diversion to an unscheduled destination was an effective way of attracting the attention of the international community.

Governments learned better; and hijackings became rarer.

At no stage was there sympathy for hijackers from any respectable quarter. Yet some sympathy for them there was — whether from rogue regimes or from states whose political agendas were assembled by reference to some opportunistic Cold War calculus. Since the fall of the Berlin Wall, however, no government has cared to incur pariah status by sheltering such criminals. A case in point is Taiwan, where once it feted hijackers of aircraft from the People's Republic, treating them as political refugees from a repressive and totalitarian system, Taipei now tries them in court for piracy.

Radically improved airport security and the sharing of intelligence by governments around the world have also made hijackings harder to effect. But the Algerian case shows that vigilance cannot be relaxed, because the problem is not over. The hijackers had two demands: that they take the aircraft to an unspecified destination; and that the leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), Abbasi Madani and Ali Belhadj, be released from house arrest by the Algerian authorities.

No demand under such conditions of duress should ever be met. The two FIS leaders must publicly condemn this reprehensible act. They claim to seek a "civilised society based on the principles of Islam". Nothing could be more uncivilised — and unIslamic — than this atrocity committed in their name. Nothing could be more counter-productive. Men who have barbarously commandeered an aircraft and murdered passengers have no moral claim. They deserve swift and exemplary punishment.

TIMES PAST, TIMES FUTURE

A holiday series on how we see our history

Of the many ways devised by man to measure the passing of time, anniversaries can be both the most light-hearted and the most significant. Bonfire Night ceased to be an anti-Catholic ritual long ago. In contrast, Remembrance Sunday has lost none of its original meaning or emotional resonance. Over the holiday season, *The Times* will look forward to 12 anniversaries in 1995 — one for each month of the year — and explore the lessons which they may have for us today.

The relationship between the past and the present is never as stable as we imagine. By commemorating things, we change them — or at least our understanding of them. What we now call the Glorious Revolution of 1688-89, for example, became glorious only in hindsight. To contemporaries, the flight of James II was seen as the replacement of one ruling house by another rather than a conspicuous victory for Parliament and liberty over absolutism. Yet in 1789, as the French Revolution raged across the Channel, Britons celebrated the centenary celebrations of their Bill of Rights with fresh eyes, confident that their nation was special and virtuous.

Anniversaries have always been a natural moment to rewrite history, to reassess the past in the light of the present. Carried to extremes, this process can be distortive. The diplomatic efforts earlier this year to make of D-Day a celebration of European unity were deeply misguided, for instance. The integrity of history should be uppermost in the minds of those who take advantage of anniversaries to revise our understanding of the past. Why do we commemorate events in different ways at different times? What can we do to improve the future by recalling the great achievements or losses of the past?

The year ahead will, for instance, mark the 50th anniversary of many events which shaped the modern world. The Yalta conference in February, the founding of the United Nations in June and the disputes at Potsdam a month later forged the power blocs of the Cold War and the global institutions that would stand nervously between them. The bombing of Dresden in February and of Hiroshima in August were the awful crucibles in which the modern German and Japanese nations were born. In April, the liberated concentration camps revealed absolute evil.

In 1995, it will be asked by many what these events mean to us now. The arguments which have raged over Churchill revisionism since the publication of John Charmley's biography last year suggest that the battle will be fierce. It will be claimed that the war lasted too long; that Churchill should have treated with Germany much earlier; and that the Second World War cost Britain its global eminence. Were the events of 1945 evidence of British singularity or the basis of the nation's decline? To what extent is the European project the unfinished business of 1945? It is questions such as these which should be prompted by anniversaries, whether they mark events in 1945, 1945 or before. It is in this spirit of inquiry — leavened by a measure of festive cheer — that we begin our series.



THE QUEEN SPEAKS

May the coming year match the hopes of her message

In 1952, when the yet to be crowned Queen first addressed nation and Commonwealth on Christmas Day, life in Britain still bore the impact of World War II. Wartime identity cards had just been abolished, but many wartime privations continued. The cheese ration, for example, had just been reduced to an ounce a week. Peace itself was precarious: this was the year when the Iron Curtain rang down between the Soviet and Western zones in Berlin. As she said yesterday, it seemed beyond imagining that she would be in Russia in 1994, to hear church bells peal over the Kremlin and, in renamed St Petersburg, to honour in friendship the British and Russian dead of that war.

Those were tense times in which to invoke the spirit of tolerance. Together with her love of children — whose "happy faces" in Russia, South Africa and Northern Ireland she called to mind yesterday — tolerance has been the thread linking the Queen's Christmas broadcasts ever since. Their grace has lain in a simple directness of style. But the crafting of these messages cannot ever be simple. The Queen cannot borrow the entertainer's trick of the leaving joke. Nor can she permit a trace of partisanship to enter her analysis of what makes for a "stable, free and considerate society". Her potential audience extends to a quarter of the world's population: the Queen's message is Christian, but it must also be Everyman's. To deny the Christmas message of peace and goodwill may, as she said nearly 20 years ago, be "a rejection of everything that makes life worth living", but to give it immediacy and resonance is a difficult art.

Yet her pleasure in reaching out to people directly in this way is clearly sincere, and this annual tour d'horizon is not without sharp contours. In 1964, as the dictatorial bent of newly independent Commonwealth

rulers became evident, she gave warning that if it was not to degenerate, "freedom must be maintained by a thousand invisible forces, self-discipline, the common law, the rights of citizens to... speak and argue". In the triumphant year of 1991, she challenged the free world "to examine what we mean by freedom", observing that democracy depended not on political structures, but "on the goodwill and the sense of responsibility of each and every citizen". This year's prayer for peace, "not least in Russia itself", embraced Chechnya. In the winter of discontent of 1978, her theme for Britain was faith in the future; in 1992, her own *Annus Horribilis*, it was the importance of looking beyond one's own troubles to those of others.

This is a tolerance not of indifference, but of determination: to recognise when others are right, while "resisting the bully and the tyrant" — her theme in the year Iraq invaded Kuwait. The Queen has not always escaped controversy: she has at times been criticised for her resolute defence of the value of multicultural, multiracial societies. But to reread these messages over a period of 42 years is to be impressed by a steadiness of moral and personal focus.

Words, particularly the words of good cheer with which the Queen invariably ends, are given what strength they have by the personality that animates them. On Christmas Day, 1957, she described why they matter to her so much at this season. "I cannot lead you into battle," she said. "I do not give you laws or administer justice. But I can do something else. I can give you my heart and my devotion to these old islands and to all the peoples of our brotherhood of nations." We extend to the Queen, in turn, our wishes that 1995 will match for her the hope and encouragement she has again held out to her subjects around the world.

Cavalier use of expert witnesses

From Mr C. B. T. Adams

Sir, I have recently appeared as an expert witness in an action that relates to events in February 1987. I wrote a report in November 1988. The hearing was scheduled for July 1994 — some seven years later. I cancelled my operating lists and outpatient clinics for five days.

The day prior to the hearing we were told that the judge had to hear a murder case instead, so it was re-listed for November. I was asked to reserve two days, a Tuesday and a Wednesday. Two operating sessions and an outpatient clinic for 40 patients were cancelled, as it turned out, unnecessarily. Each evening the promised attendance for the following day was cancelled.

Eventually I insisted on giving the evidence on the Friday. The solicitors and barristers were quite surprised to hear of the effects their delays were having on patients.

The reasons for delays are always "unavoidable", but a common one is the pernicious habit of unrelated "smaller" cases being heard prior to the main action, which in fact wasted a whole day in this particular case.

Another reason is the sublime indifference of the legal profession to the passage of time. On several occasions, I have spent three days in the witness box being cross-examined, many of the questions being repeated over and over again in the hope, presumably, that I might say something different.

A further cause of delay is that the courts' lists are always provisional because of the tendency lawyers have of leaving settlement negotiations until the day of the hearing. But surely it would be possible to legislate a "settlement day", one month perhaps before the hearing? If no settlement was achieved on that day then no further offers could be made until the action had started. Hopefully the potential costs of the proceedings would act as an incentive to settle the case early, without the need for expert witnesses etc.

If I managed my professional activities (especially my operating lists) as chaotically as the legal profession, I would be hauled in front of the General Medical Council.

I have considerable sympathy for the Lord Chancellor's desire to reform civil litigation. I have not taken on any more new medico-legal work for three years, and it would seem that the only people who will be prepared to act as experts will be retired professionals. This surely cannot be satisfactory for the legal process.

Yours faithfully,
C. B. T. ADAMS
(Consultant neurosurgeon).
The Radcliffe Infirmary,
Woodstock Road, Oxford.
December 20.

Fishing dispute

From Mr Christopher Booker

Sir, Your report (later editions, December 21) on the row over Spanish access to British and Irish fishing waters, which Spain was granted in a vote in Brussels yesterday (report, December 23), echoes a widespread but crucial misunderstanding when it states that "Spain is insisting on full access to all EU waters from 1996 as promised in its accession terms ten years ago".

The whole point of the dispute is that, under their accession treaty of 1985, the Spanish agreed that their huge fishing fleet should not be given full access to EC waters until 2002. Last March, during the negotiations for Norway's accession, Spain pressured the EC into an agreement, originally kept secret, that the date of its full access would be brought forward by six years to 1996 — thus in effect driving a coach and horses through the treaty signed in 1985.

It is hardly surprising that when this came to light in May Britain's fishermen were outraged — not just because they will suffer directly as a result, but because this seemed further evidence of how, in the Alice-in-Wonderland world of the EU, words and solemn agreements now seem to mean nothing at all.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER BOOKER.
The Old Rectory,
Liton, Bath, Avon.
December 23.

Anglo-French praise

From Mr Maurice McGraive

Sir, I would suggest that the heroic incident involving Napoleon depicted on Mr Lamely Green's excellent French clock (letter, December 23) took place not at Aries but on the bridge of Arcola.

Napoleon's enemies at the Battle of Arcola (November 15-17, 1796), fought along the rivers Adige and Alpone in northern Italy, were not British but the Austrian forces of General Alvinzi. The image of Napoleon rallying his soldiers on the bridge itself was a popular subject with official artists.

Yours faithfully,
MAURICE MCGRAIVE,
88 Bereweeke Avenue,
Winchester, Hampshire.
December 23.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 071-782 5000

Safety of Amboseli's tame tuskers

From Dr Iain Douglas-Hamilton

Sir, As you say (leading article, December 14), the death of the tame old elephants who strayed from Amboseli national park in Kenya into the sights of so-called sport hunters across the Tanzanian border is grotesque and repugnant (letter, December 15).

These were no ordinary elephants. They were prime bulls followed for over 20 years by dedicated researchers. In middle age their tusks were massive. The world-record tusks are believed to have come from the same population, and weighed over 220 lb each.

Alone of all East Africa's savannah parks, Amboseli largely escaped the ravages of ivory poaching. Cow elephants prefer large tuskers if they have a choice and this is one of the very few locations where they can be found in Africa. It is undesirable to deplete what may be a rare gene pool for large tusks by selective hunting for tusk size.

These record bulls are safe so long as they stay in Kenya, where the elephant situation has improved spectacularly over the last six years. A recent elephant count of the Tsavo national park, in which I participated, found over 7,000 elephants, but no evidence

of poaching. Well trained, specialised anti-poaching units are based permanently in the parks, operating with good transport, equipment, communications and close aerial support. Elephant hunting is forbidden in Kenya and it is not true, to my knowledge, that the wildlife department is undermined by bribery to the detriment of elephants, as you suggest.

Although some of the money from elephant-hunting fees in Tanzania may be intended to go back to elephant conservation, killing prime elephants is rather like the Greeks sacrificing the flower of their population to the Minotaur in order to save the whole country. In Tanzania large tuskers have virtually been hunted out of the population.

Unfortunately, the unique tuskers of Amboseli are still prone to wander and will continue to stray into dangerous areas. So long as elephant hunting is allowed in Tanzania on the Kenya border a repetition of the tragedy is likely.

Yours sincerely,
IAIN DOUGLAS-HAMILTON
(Chairman of Trustees,
Save the Elephants),
PO Box 54467, Nairobi.
December 15.

Defence of dowsing

From Major-General W. F. Cooper,
President of the British Society
of Dowsers

Sir, Many people like Professor Vincent Reddish (report, December 1) and Dr G. F. Wood (letter, December 14) have written about dowsing and many of them have applied "scientific" tests to practitioners. All these folk have been brought up in the traditional scientific way and are naturally fond of tests, particularly double-blind tests.

Unfortunately dowsers usually perform badly under such test conditions and often fail, and therefore the usefulness of dowsing is written off by part of the scientific establishment.

A great deal of dowsing seems to go on in the mind and so the only "proof" is anecdotal; but it has been used by very many people for practical purposes for a long, long time. Even if Dr Wood remains unsatisfied, many village women in Tamil Nadu, India, where there has been a prolonged drought, give thanks for the work of a dowser (a lay brother in a Roman Catholic mission there) who has consistently found water for them near their villages and saved them a long daily haul. There are many other examples.

Dowsing is a thoroughly practical skill, which the vast majority of people can learn and which can help folk in all sorts of ways, such as tracing lost or undiscovered articles. As our little

brochure says, it is a means of finding out.

Yours faithfully,
W. F. COOPER, President,
The British Society of Dowsers,
Sycamore Barn,
Hastings, Ashford, Kent.

From Mr Ralph Irwin-Brown

Sir, In spite of the large artificial catchment areas on its eastern flank the Rock of Gibraltar has often been short of fresh water, especially during the hot summer months. In the 1950s my firm was contracted by the Admiralty to construct five long, large, concrete-lined tunnels within the Rock for Fleet oil storage. Concrete needs unsaline water for mixing.

Although the Admiralty at times ran in a tanker with several thousand tons for their own use the charge to the contractor seemed exorbitant.

On a flight from Kuwait I had met a diver, a Sapper colonel. In the face of ridicule from my chairman and much naval scepticism I arranged for him to explore the Rock. After two days he suggested a trial pit should be dug between its north face and the airport runway. To everyone's surprise a flowing fresh-water aquifer was found about 12 feet below surface level. We no longer paid water rates to their lordships.

Yours sincerely,
R. IRWIN-BROWN
(Chartered civil engineer),
Trotton, Grayshot, Surrey.

Alexandria's libraries

From Ms Diana Grimwood-Jones

Sir, Nothing stirs up historians more than rival theories relating to the fate of the ancient libraries of Alexandria. Both your correspondents (letters, December 20) may indeed be right but on one matter, all are agreed: how little we know about the subject. Bibliography here is thin but I recommend Luciano Canfora's *The Vanished Library*, attractively translated by Martin Ryle (University of California Press).

Another feature that unites all parties is the debt owed to the ancient library by those concerned with science, scholarship, the arts and culture. It provides a unique link with the Graeco-Roman world and, thanks to, among others, perceptive Islamic scholars, we are able to enjoy many Greek texts today.

Building has now started on an important new library on Alexandria's sweeping Corniche, close to the site of its ancient forbear. It is due for completion before the millennium.

Yours sincerely,
DIANA GRIMWOOD-JONES
(Honorary Secretary),
Friends of the Alexandria Library,
c/o Aslib, 20-24 Old Street, EC1.

A staunch European

From Lord Amery

Sir, With the death of Antoine Pinay, only a few days before his 103rd birthday, France has lost a great statesman and Britain a good friend. As you rightly point out in your obituary notice (December 14), he was a staunch European and champion of the Atlantic alliance. Among other less well known creations he started the so-called *Cercle Pinay* of European and American conservatives which still continues today. Harold Macmillan sometimes consulted Antoine Pinay on matters of international finance.

If I may end on a lighter note, Pinay and Macmillan were both invited to the anniversary of the signature of the Austrian state treaty, a turning-point in postwar European developments. Foster Dulles had died but his sister was present. Only Mr Molotov, the other signatory, was noticeable by his absence. Pinay approached Mr Gromyko and asked "Where is our friend, Molotov?", to which Gromyko replied rather ambiguously: "He is very much retired; but he is free!"

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN AMERY,
House of Lords,
December 14.

Pollution threat to the Taj Mahal

From Dr Seymour Spencer

Sir, Amidst the laudable enthusiasm ("A monumental problem", Bernard Levin, December 20) for the world to save the Taj Mahal, it must not be forgotten that the other great treasure in Agra makes an equally strong claim against destruction by pollution: the smaller, of equally exquisite marble, Itimad-ud-daulah on the opposite bank of the Yamuna. Possible precursor of the Taj, certainly built earlier in the seventeenth century, it is the tomb of Mirza Ghiyas Beg, chief minister of Jahangir, the father of Shah Jahan who built the Taj.

If Agra and India are prepared to do nothing to prevent further erosion of these two unique mausoleums, the world must come to their joint rescue.

Yours faithfully,
SEYMOUR SPENCER,
13 Victoria Court,
5 London Road, Headington, Oxford.
December 21.

From the Director of the Nehru Centre

Sir, Few sentences have struck me for their beauty as Bernard Levin's: "All that lives must die; nowhere is it written that that truth does not include stone and jewels. For assuredly it includes love." And even fewer for their concision as this one, a few paragraphs down: "... although India does not deserve the Taj, the world still does and cannot do without it."

The world is not going to lose the Taj. But this is not because Mr Levin's column has roused its restoration ire. The Taj will continue to bewitch the world for, despite the adjectives ("lazy", "indifferent", "ignorant") that he has decorated her with, India has both the will and the skill needed for protecting the monument's health. India could certainly do with advice and assistance in combating the corrosive acids in Agra's air. But spare us, please, the toxin of exaggeration which can damage cultures, whether of words or of marble, equally.

Yours sincerely,
GOPAL GANDHI,
Director, The Nehru Centre,
8 South Audley Street, W1,
December 20.

From Mrs Renee Bravo

Sir, For someone who professes such love for India, it is surprising that Bernard Levin is obviously unaware of the background to his assertion that the Taj Mahal is a monument to perfect love.

Yes, it was built by Shah Jahan as a memorial to his beloved wife, Mumtaz-Mahal. She died in her early thirties in childbirth, bearing, I believe, her fourteenth child in eighteen years.

If this is Bernard Levin's idea of perfect love, it's a good thing he is a bachelor.

Yours faithfully,
RENEE BRAVO,
15 Embassy Court, Woodford Road,
South Woodford, E18.
December 22.

Dress code

From Mr J. D. Winkles

Sir, With my rubber boots known as my Wellingtons and my black official hat known as my Anthony Eden I am pleased to inform you that my bottle-green corduroys have been christened my Rees-Moggs (letters, December 17).

Yours faithfully,
DAVID WINKLES,
Coleyhes Lodge,
Covey Tracey, Devon.

From Mrs Adrienne Cooper

Sir, Further to William Rees-Mogg's article and the subsequent correspondence may I suggest a new name for the economic misery suffered by many of us: "anarakia".

Yours faithfully,
ADRIENNE COOPER,
12 Merrylee Road,
Newlands, Glasgow.

Round robins

From Mr Stephen V. Straker

Sir, The Dean of Lichfield with his correct definition of "round robin" (letter, December 19) has prompted me to search for an original round robin which came from the machine room of my old family printing firm. It dates from the 1870s and was written in pencil on a sheet of diary paper cut into a nine-inch circle. The message in the centre of the sheet reads:

Dear Sir, As most of the layers on are over 18 years of age and only earning 16/- a week they would thank you very much if you would kindly increase our overtime money to sixpence per hour instead of 5d as we think it is not enough for us.

With respects to Mr S Straker from the layers on.

There were seven signatories around the petition all of whom, it would appear, had a hand in writing it. With the arrival of trades unions — and there were very many in the printing trade — any grievance would then be handled by the "father of the chapel".

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN V. STRAKER,
Cromden Lodge,
Manor Road, Reigate, Surrey.
December 20.

ers call
for the
extended

OBITUARIES

ZAIL SINGH

Zail Singh, President of India, 1982-87, died in hospital in Chandigarh on Christmas Day aged 78. He was born in Sandhwan, Punjab, on May 5, 1916.



REGARDED throughout India as being a tool of Mrs Indira Gandhi when he became head of state in 1982, Zail Singh went on to become, against all expectations, a thorn in the side of the government of her son Rajiv. Seldom can a President of India have taken office to such general derision. When Singh's appointment was announced it was regarded as demeaning a position which, though it is largely ceremonial, had nevertheless been graced in the past by Indians of intellectual distinction and international reputation.

Singh, who was India's first Sikh President, was regarded by contrast as a parish pump politician, a country bumpkin, whose limited knowledge of world politics often led him into absurd pronouncements. His somewhat approximate grasp of English made him seem doubly ridiculous in a country where that language still lends coherence to internal affairs necessarily conducted over a range of diverse cultures and languages. As Mrs Gandhi's creature he was variously described as having the status of the ass on which Christ rode into Jerusalem or less flatteringly, by the *Indian Express*, as being "Caligula's horse" (elevated to the consulship by his eccentric imperial master).

His conduct under Indira Gandhi did nothing to dispel this initial impression. Assigned by her to crush the separatist movement for a Sikh homeland in Punjab, he obeyed her orders to the letter. In other matters he seemed positively to glory in his subservience to the Prime Minister, declaring himself on one occasion ready to collect up the shoes outside her bedroom for polishing.

During the premiership of her son, after her assassination in 1984, things could hardly have been more different. Though still with little constitutional power, Singh came almost to have the status of an opposition leader, though this had less to do with a sudden accession of principle than with the snubs he endured from the new Prime Minister.

Zail Singh was the son of a small farmer in the Faridkot region of Punjab. He joined a Sikh temple and trained as a priest after leaving school. With the theological knowledge he acquired there he was permitted to use the title *Giani* — "learned one".

His early manhood was entirely absorbed by the campaign against British rule in the 1930s. He joined the Congress Party and led a revolt in Punjab which led to his arrest and a five-year jail sentence in 1938.

After Indian independence in 1947 he became Revenue Minister of Patiala and the East Punjab States and was from 1951 to 1952, Minister for Public Works and Agriculture. In 1956 he was elected to the Rajya Sabha (upper house) of Parliament and served until 1962. But he remained an essentially local politician, with his activities focused on the Punjab assembly to which he was elected in 1962. He was president of the Punjab Provincial Congress Committee, 1966-72, and served as Chief Minister of the state for five years from 1972.

"Khalistan", in Punjab, Singh, who always made a great parade of his devotion to the Sikh religion, may have seemed, superficially, to have been an ideal instrument for her purposes, but in reality his professions fooled no one and it was not long before both he and the Prime Minister were on a Sikh militant hit list.

At her urging Singh was in 1982 elected President. This was a post which made him — nominally at least — commander-in-chief of the armed forces, and thus associated him inextricably with the events that were to follow. In June 1984 the army stormed the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the holiest Sikh shrine, to flush out militants who were continuing to demand the creation of Khalistan. In the fierce fighting that followed more than a thousand Sikhs were killed.

It was an action which sealed the Prime Minister's fate; she was shot dead by two Sikh bodyguards four months later. This provoked a ferocious backlash against the Sikhs, particularly in New Delhi where a ruthless hunt soon led to what amounted to a general massacre with more than three thousand of them hacked, burned or beaten to death. Singh, who had been a helpless bystander during the Golden Temple affair, now became the object of general Sikh execration.

This was the nadir of Singh's fortunes. Yet within a few months of Indira Gandhi's being succeeded in the premiership by her son Rajiv, he had begun to acquire the mantle of a man of principle, through his opposition to what was seen as the high-handed, autocratic style of the new government. The fact was that Singh felt deeply humiliated by Rajiv's personal behaviour towards him. The sophisticated, internationally-educated Prime Minister simply could not understand, and certainly could not be bothered to communicate with, India's somewhat homespun President. The elementary courtesies which were due to the head of state — informing him about visits abroad, parliamentary bills and such like — were ignored.

Singh therefore set himself to become a goad in Rajiv Gandhi's flanks. His office might not carry with it real political power, but it gave him a podium from which to

voice his discontent. The *Indian Express*, previously a conspicuous critic of his performance, was now pleased to print letters from the Prime Minister's office, complaining about the latter's failure to communicate vital matters of state to the President.

Meanwhile, Congress Party members of parliament, equally annoyed by the new Prime Minister's indifference to them, began to beat a path to Singh's door to vent their grievances. When the Bofors scandal erupted, with its allegations of corrupt government procurement over the order of guns for the Indian forces from the Swedish armaments firm, there was strong pressure from some Congress members of parliament to get Singh to institute an impeachment of the Prime Minister. In short, Rajiv Gandhi found that the man who had been derided as his mother's poodle had, with startling suddenness, developed into a real threat to his power.

In the spring of 1987 the Prime Minister found himself having to beat a hasty path to the doors of the presidential residence to bring an end to what had by then become a highly publicised feud, with the honours going, in the public perception, very much to the President. It was a display of political tactical acumen by Singh which was not at all predicted by his earlier performance. In the event talks were concluded with surface amiability — Singh posing jauntily for the photographers, Rajiv managing to come up with a tight-lipped smile.

The fact is that Singh, coming to the end of his five-year presidential term, would probably not at all have minded another period in the splendid former viceregal palace which was now the presidential residence. But it was not to be. Rajiv Gandhi had enough power left to thwart such a design and Singh duly departed from office into retirement.

With his flowery speeches in Urdu and his striking personal appearance — much-starched turban, large black beard and perennial button-hole rose — Singh was, during his term, a colourful figure on the Indian political scene. His death comes a month after his car was involved in a road accident.

He is survived by his wife, a son and three daughters.

DAVID BACHE



David Bache, former stylist of Rover cars, died from cancer on November 28 aged 69. He was born in Mannheim, Germany, on June 14, 1925.

AS ONE of Britain's best car stylists, David Bache was responsible for several of the most durable designs in motoring since the war. Above all, he brought a sense of modernism to the previously staid Rover company.

He was a flamboyant character with an expansive personality, the outer manifestation of which was a taste for loud checked jackets and bold ties. Very much the artist-designer with a touch of the showman about him, he provided a colourful counterpoint to his many sober-minded engineer colleagues in the profession. The result was a series of cars as creatively styled as they were intelligently engineered.

Bache was the son of an international soccer player and former England captain. He joined Austin in the later years of the war as an engineering apprentice. Once his apprenticeship was completed he moved to Austin's styling department and in 1953 he joined Rover.

Rover was then a relatively small concern run almost in the manner of a family business. Until then it had relied heavily on the instincts of the engineering chief Maurice Wilks to evolve the conservative and well-considered lines of the Rover car. To appoint the 28-year-old Bache as Rover's first stylist was thus considered a very bold step.

Bache did not disappoint and his first task — to update the portly P4 series (the so-called "Auntie" Rover) — was a resounding success. With a higher tail, a panoramic rear window and a more strongly detailed front, the 1949 design gained a freshness which enabled it to last until 1964.

Bache's first complete design was the Rover 3-litre of 1958. This was a conscious move up-market for Rover, as the car had to be a convincing alternative for those who found a Jaguar too flashy. Bache's high waisted, muscular design fitted the bill perfectly, especially in its later coupe form.

But it was with the 1963 Rover 2000 that Bache's assured touch was most clearly demonstrated. Less radical than his original proposals, the car as launched nonetheless had a sculptural quality which stood it apart from its rivals. It was also daringly contemporary in its interior

styling, which was again Bache's work. The sweeping open plan dashboard, fronted by a rectangular instrument binnacle, looked almost like the hi-fi sets of the era, while at the rear individual bucket seats offered an degree of cosiness, not common at that time.

It was Bache's misfortune that, after the 2000, the Rover company became ensnared in the British Leyland débacle. Rover having merged with Leyland in 1966.

As a consequence of internal politics his design for a large Rover saloon to rival Jaguar's XJ6 was cancelled at the last moment, while his elegant refining of the mid-engined BS sports coupé prototype was halted under pressure from Jaguar's chief, Sir William Lyons.

Sadly, therefore, the only major Rover project from the late 1960s to reach production was the Range Rover, and in this instance the basic styling was not the work of Bache but was created by his engineering colleagues Spen King and Gordon Bastford. Bache, however, smoothed out the prototype's functional lines, and must share in the credit for the car's award-winning design.

The final Bache-styled Rover was the SD1, launched in 1976 to replace the Rover 2000. Its sleek hatchback lines made it a startlingly original contender in the conservative "executive" sector of the car market and, with its well-honed conventional mechanicals and its bold Bache-designed interior, it was a deserved winner of the Car of the Year award. Unfortunately its commercial success was hampered by the notorious production and reliability problems of the parent firm.

By this time Bache was chief stylist at BL, and in this role he refined the styling of the Austin Metro and created the clean and glassy shape of the 1983 Austin Maestro. Both models share what had become a Bache trademark: twin parallel styling lines along the car's side, a device to emphasise length and make the sides appear less deep.

In 1981 Bache left BL. He then set up his own design practice, a relatively low-key operation working as much outside the motor industry as within it.

In his later years he was a genuinely enthusiastic participant in the activities of owners' clubs devoted to the cars he had designed, and his modest presence at club rallies was much valued.

David Bache is survived by his wife Doreen, two sons and a daughter.

BILL TULLOCH



Bill Tulloch, racehorse owner, died on December 19 aged 66. He was born on April 9, 1928.

ACCORDING to the former champion National Hunt jockey Stan Mellor, Bill Tulloch had the Midas touch with horses: "He never spent much, but always aimed high, and invariably won." This was certainly true of two of his best-known jumpers (owned, like all his horses, in partnership with his wife), Pollardstown and Lean Ar Aghaidh. Both were trained by Mellor, who thought so highly of the first-named gelding that he named his racing stables near Swindon after him.

In 1979, as a four-year-old, Pollardstown was beaten only once, his successes including the Daily Express Triumph Hurdle. In 1981 he was runner-up to that brilliant horse, Sea Pigeon, in the Champion Hurdle, and followed that up with victory in the Welsh Champion Hurdle at Chepstow where his part-

owner later became a steward. The crowning moment of glory for Lean Ar Aghaidh was in the 1987 Whitbread Gold Cup when he made virtually all the running, while three years later, at the advanced age of 13, this popular performer (whom Tulloch always referred to as "Lean on the Age") captured the demanding Foxhunters Chase at Aintree over a circuit of the Grand National course.

But it was not only over the jumps that Tulloch had success. On the flat, in 1983, Charlie Nelson saddled Creag-an-Sgor to win the Middle Park Stakes and the Greenham Stakes the following spring; also in 1984 he sent out their filly, Mahogany, to take the Fred Darling Stakes, while another filly, Wind In Her Hair, leased to the Tullochs and trained by John Hills, gained a Classic place by being runner-up in this year's Oaks.

Donald William Formby Tulloch was the son of Major General Donald Derek Tulloch. After National Service, he joined the Colonial Service in the 1950s. During his time in Tanganyika as a district officer and district commissioner, he was known as "Bwana Tafadhali" (Mr Ask Nicely) for his unfailingly courteous manner. On his return to Britain the following decade, he began a successful business career with the purchase of a coin-operated laundrette. Both in business and on the racecourse, Tulloch was a natural, larger-than-life enthusiast with a great zest for sport for his own sake.

He leaves his widow, Georgiana, a son and three daughters.

Lilia Skala, actress, died in Long Island on December 18 aged 98. She was born in Vienna on November 28, 1896.

LILIA SKALA was a formidable Austrian actress whose career was effectively put on hold in the 1930s by her reluctance to work in Germany under the Nazi regime. She was a strong self-reliant woman, handsome rather than pretty, and with a career as an architect behind her before she took up the stage. The year of the Anschluss, 1938, she fled with her Jewish husband to America and was forced thereafter to make her way in the more commercial arenas of Broadway and Hollywood.

The result was that she did not receive anything like her due recognition as an actress until she was old enough to be offered some good character parts, these flooding in after her marvellous performance as a nun in *Lilies of the Field* (1963).

Lilies starred the then relatively unknown Sidney Poitier as Homer Smith, a footloose handyman who stops to repair a farmhouse roof for five refugee German nuns stranded in Arizona, and Skala played the mother superior who then persuades him to build them a chapel. The film had started life as little more than a labour of love for the actors — Poitier agreed to work for a percentage of profits, the assumption being that there would be none.

However, it went on to do very well at the box office, establishing Poitier as a bankable star (he won the Oscar for best actor that year) and



Lilia Skala with Sidney Poitier in *Lilies of the Field*, 1963

Skala, too, to a lesser extent. She was nominated best supporting actress that year and won the Golden Globe Award, though those who knew Skala suggested that she had hardly been acting in the part at all. Later that year she was invited back to Germany by Willy Bratt as his guest at a Berlin film festival.

Lilia von Skala as she was born, was the daughter of a manufacturer who considered acting a very unsuitable profession for his daughter. Lilia studied architecture at the university of Dresden, the university in Vienna not accepting female students at that time. She returned to Vienna to practise as an interior

LILIA SKALA

decorator strongly influenced by the Bauhaus. She was the first woman to be a member of the Austrian Association of Engineers and Architects.

Acting continued to be her main interest, however, and she made her official stage debut in 1922 in a Fernc Molnar play. She appeared in numerous films in Austria and joined the Max Reinhardt Repertory Theatre. She worked a good deal on the German stage in the 1920s, but had little to do with theatre thereafter 1933.

She emigrated with her husband, Erik Skala, to America in 1938 and was promptly invited to Hollywood — though like many in her

position she was forced to work as a waitress before any parts actually materialised. Her first big break was on Broadway in 1941 with *Letters to Lucerne*, in which she played a Swiss housekeeper.

The turning point in her career, however, came nine years later with Irving Berlin's *Call Me Madam* on Broadway, and with the film version of 1953 which starred Ethel Merman. Skala was kept busy with television work throughout the 1950s but with the success of *Lilies of the Field* her career moved into a higher gear. In films she was cast as a bored housewife in *Ship of Fools* (1965); as a psychiatrist in *Charly* (1968) and again in *House of Games* (1967); and as a former ballerina in *Flashdance* (1983), the mentor to the nightclub dancer Jennifer Beals. She appeared as an octogenarian ballroom dancer in an early Merchant-Ivory production, *Roseland* (1977), and as a Bronx version of a witch in the Macheth-inspired gangster film, *Men of Respect* (1990).

In theatre she appeared in numerous Broadway and off-Broadway productions. She sang the role of Mrs Peachum in New York City Opera's *The Threepenny Opera* (1963), and played the landlady Fraulein Schneider in several stage productions of *Cabaret*.

She carried on working until very recently, and never complained of being typecast as the eccentric European émigré, although in her case — unable as she was to quite shake off her Austrian accent — there was very little she could do about it. Her marriage was dissolved, and she leaves her two sons.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Derek Hollis, Vicar, united benefice of Beckingham w. Walkeringham (Southwell): to be also Priest-in-charge, Cringley-on-the-Hill, same diocese.
The Rev William Kentigern-Fox, Vicar, St Michael and All Angels w. St Edmund, Northampton (Peterborough): to be also a non-Residential Canon of Peterborough Cathedral.
The Rev Bruce Kingston, Rector, Michelmarsh and Timsbury and Farley Chamberlayne and Braishfield: to be also Rural Dean of Romsey (Winchester).
The Rev Olivia Lambert, Assistant Curate, Huntingdon Team Ministry: to be Team Vicar, Huntingdon Team Ministry (York).
The Rev Michael Langan, Rector, Althorne, Cresslea and Latchingdon w. North Farnbridge: to be Anglican

Priest-in-charge, South Woodham Ferrers (Chelmsford).
The Rev Rachel Lewis, Assistant Curate, Biddstone, Castle Combe, Nettleton, Slaughterford, West Kingston and Yatton Keynell: to be also Priest-in-charge, Grittleton and Leigh Delamere (Bristol).
The Rev Audrey Maddock, Hon Assistant Curate, Stanton St Quintin, Hullavington and Grittleton w Norton and Leigh Delamere and Littleton Drew: to be Priest-in-charge, Littleton Drew (Bristol).
The Rev David Newsome, Vicar, All Saints' Gravelly Hill: to be also Rural Dean of Aston (Birmingham).
The Rev Robert North, Priest-in-charge, St Nicholas, Hereford, and Diocesan Director of Ordinands (Hereford): to be also a Prebend of Hereford Cathedral.
The Rev Ian Pearson, Assistant Curate, Chestersfield (Derby): to be Rector, Bengeo, Holy

Trinity w. Christchurch (St Albans).
The Rev Lynda Randall: to be Team Vicar Designate in the proposed Linton Team Ministry (Ely).
The Rev David Ridgeway, Assistant Curate, Radlett: to be Priest-in-charge, Heath and Reach (St Albans).
The Rev Timothy Roper, Rector, Arthingworth and Harrington w Oxendon and East Farmdon (Peterborough): to be also a non-Residential Canon of Peterborough Cathedral.
The Rev Paul Rose, Vicar, Rothwell w Orton and Rector, Rushden and Glendon w Pipewell (Peterborough): to be also a non-Residential Canon of Peterborough Cathedral.
The Rev Trevor Smith, Assistant Curate, Northallerton w Kirby Sigston: to be Priest-in-charge, Middleton w Newton, and w pastoral responsibility

for Sinnington (York) until the new benefice is promulgated.
The Rev Michael Steadman, Rector, Church Stretton, All Stretton and Little Stretton, and Rural Dean of Conderover (Hereford): to be also a Prebend of Hereford Cathedral.
The Rev John Wardle, Vicar Choral at Southwell Minster (Southwell): to be also Adviser on Healing, same diocese.
The Rev John A. Wardle, Rector, Barton Seagrave w Warkton and Millbrook (Peterborough): to be also a non-Residential Canon of Peterborough Cathedral.
The Rev Ian Willey, Vicar Ravenshorpe: to be Vicar St Mary the Virgin, Barnsley, w the daughter church of St Paul, Old Town, Barnsley (Wakefield).
The Rev Keith Williams, Rector, Swillington (Ripon): to be Vicar, All Saints, Badley and Priest-in-charge, St Andrews, Purlwell (Wakefield).

COLD BATH FIELDS PRISON

We have received a copy of the Report of the Commissioners appointed by His Majesty to inquire into the state of the Cold Bath Fields Prison. It is extremely long, extending over no fewer than 112 folio pages... They were in general pleased with what they saw, but they found many things deserving of censure.

It appeared that the allowance of bread was sometimes scanty. They had reason to be dissatisfied, with the manner in which the victuals are distributed, as the prisoners are obliged to fast for 17 hours. The want of fireplaces in the cells they severely blame, and they seem to be of the opinion that the prisoners must suffer extremely from the cold, if they open the doors of their cells, or from bad air if they keep them shut.

They give the prisoners great credit for not being disposed to make loose and unreasonable complaints. Although there were near 100 convicted felons in the prison, the use of irons was generally dispensed with. The Commissioners allow that, from their visits being foreseen, they are unable to form any judgment as to the cleanliness of the prison, but they are inclined to think that under this head there exists no general ground of complaint. The use of baths they found to be neglected, and the washing of prisoners at entrance to be entirely laid aside. Contrary to an express rule there was a great distinction

ON THIS DAY

December 26, 1800

Of this prison, notorious for its harsh regime, Coleridge wrote: "As he went through Cold-Bath Fields he saw a solitary cell: And the Devil was pleased, for it gave him a hint/For improving his prisons in Hell." (The Devil's Thoughts). It was demolished in 1889.

made in the article of food between those of the same degree of guilt, and such as were supplied with money could procure almost every thing they wanted.

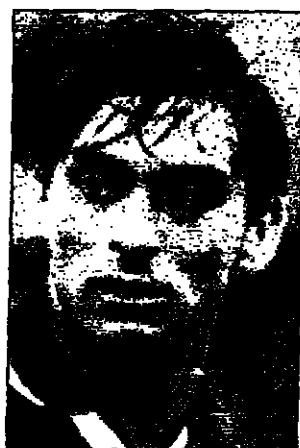
The Report is extremely favourable under the heading Health. Since the foundation of the prison the annual mortality has been about two and something more than a half in a hundred. Since the year 1799 the typhus or gaol fever, has become very prevalent, and its existence is attributed by the Commissioners to the prison being greatly overcrowded; cleanliness and ventilation not being properly attended to; the want of more

diffusive means of communicating warmth to the prisoners; and the number of disorderly women cooped up together in small, damp, filthy apartments. The rules with regard to solitary confinement have been totally neglected these two years. The manner in which regulated labour went on was deserving of praise. The prison clothing was provided for most of the prisoners but those were not obliged to wear it.

The Commissioners state that they "cannot but observe in these powers to dispense, a motive to corrupt, and a temptation to be corrupted". The manner in which those are treated who have been guilty of misdemeanours is pointedly condemned. In general their situation was as uncomfortable as that of convicted felons, while a few enjoyed every luxury. The bad effects of this inequality are stated in a striking point of view: "It appears to us there cannot fail to arise a competition in the means of bribery, which must end, if not in the corruption, at least in the most dangerous temptation, of him who has the decision in his power. We apprehend that persons in this situation have but too well known how to suit their proposals to the wants of the Governor, and that in fact he has been sometimes tempted beyond what he has had fortitude to resist."

They blame the practice of committing to this prison persons detained on suspicion, for trial, and to give evidence, for many of the disorders of the prison.

FOOTBALL



19

Free spirits hope to join the chosen few

SPORTS QUIZ



20

Who won the battle of the ice maidens?

SIMON BARNES



21

Spotlight on the figures of fun and fame

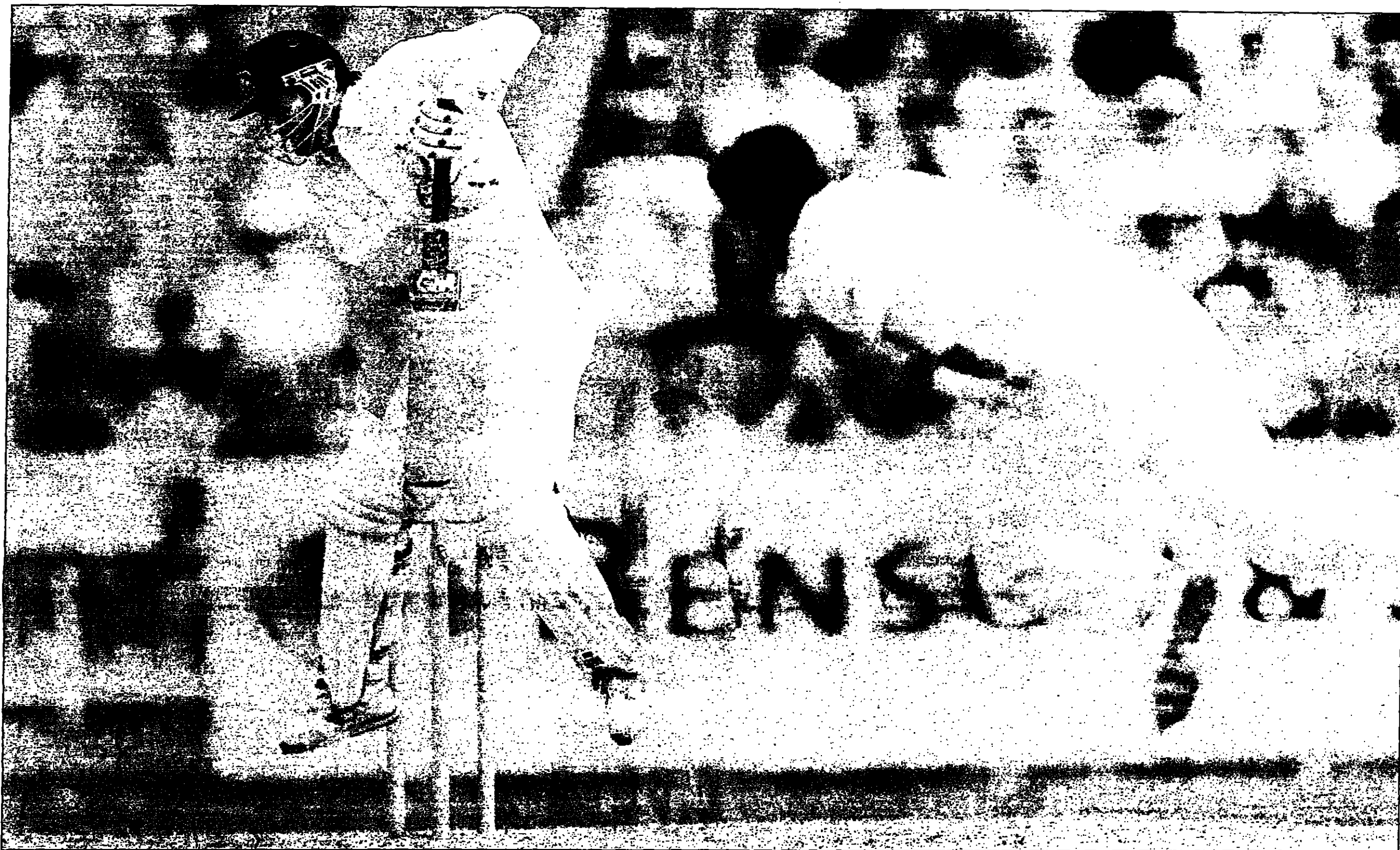
RACING



22

Adrian Maguire banks on Kempton success

TIMES SPORT



Gough catches Steve Waugh on the hop as the Australia batsman struggles with a fiery delivery during the first day's play in the second Test in Melbourne. Photograph: Graham Morris

Bowlers make early inroads as Australia innings fails to take off

Waugh holds up England

THE coin has not often fallen kindly for Michael Atherton on this England tour and when, on Saturday morning, he correctly called tails, a deep breath was drawn before he informed Mark Taylor, his Australia counterpart, that he must put on his pads. It was an important moment and a perilous decision, but it did not spoil Atherton's Christmas.

To put in the opposition in a Test match is the traditional province of compliments and desperadoes, but Atherton fitted neither category. The Melbourne pitch for this second Test was damp, the skies were overcast and bowling first was a logical attacking move. Whether it also suited the defensive notion of avoiding Shane Warne in Utopia is quite another matter.

The outcome was a day of tense, comnoisseur's cricket.



Tufnell: two wickets

stripped of frills and flippancy. Australia batted with unusual reticence, hitting only 11 fours all day. England bowled with commendable purpose, if not always with direction, and fielded as if the tour depended upon it, which to a large extent it did.

A crowd of 31,367, better than expected given the competition with the last-minute Christmas shopping, watched subdued and, perhaps, slightly baffled. Come the end of the opening day, with Australia 220 for seven, it was impossible to divine whether England had actually taken the grip on the game that the conditions warranted.

Such doubts did not, naturally, prevent Raymond Illingworth being asked to give another press conference. Seven wickets were down, after all, and there were those eager to elevate the chairman of the England selectors' motivational powers to an ever more mythical plane. Yesterday's pantomime, performed by the players, portrayed him as God. Much more of this and the coach, Keith Fletcher, will be able to retire from public life — at least until the next defeat.

It was not an error-free display by England, nor one that spoke of suddenly improved confidence. One catch was missed and another not attempted and the seam bowlers too often strayed towards the leg side, wasting the available aid in a pitch not only permitting some sideways movement, which will probably diminish, but an uneven bounce that almost certainly will not.



Alan Lee reports from Melbourne on a tense and absorbing opening day's play in the second Test match

Nor did Atherton himself shine constantly. Having taken a gamble on the fitness of Darren Gough, one that he had previously convinced himself was unwise, he rotated his three quicker bowlers adroitly. Gough was outstanding among them. The captain's handling of Philip Tufnell, however, was not designed to intimidate and no sooner had the spin bowler been struck once over mid-on than Atherton dropped his field back in a disturbingly negative fashion.

Tufnell's ways are a mystery to all and, increasingly, it appears that he is being left to his own devices. While the rest

of the bowlers went through their pre-match exercises and bowled looseners for half an hour, Tufnell wandered the outfield in a tracksuit as if he was proposing to take no part in the imminent proceedings. He stopped short of lightning up a cigarette, but it may have been a close-run thing.

Once he had the ball in his hand for real, however, Tufnell performed with credit. One cannot be more fulsome than that, for the turn that he extracted was minimal and the suspicion persisted that other bowlers would have done more. But Tufnell pursued a faithful line, dismissed David Boon and Ian Healy

and suggested, once again, that Australians are near to clueless when he bowls at leg stump from over the wicket.

Mark Waugh, who perished in foolish fashion against such tactics in the first Test, almost contrived another quaint dismissal, charging down the pitch and only avoiding an easy stumping through the ball clipping his foot and scooping past leg stump.

Waugh had already survived one indiscretion when, on 15, he uprooted Devon Malcolm high to third man. Graham Gough, who briefly lost the ball in the background of the towering stands, took a step backwards instead of several forwards, then raised his hands in instant apology as the ball pitched a few yards short.

Still resenting the confinements of the day, however, Waugh was out to a wide long hop bowled by DeFreitas at the start of his third spell. It was a wasteful end and Waugh looked suitably disgusted with himself in full knowledge that this was the fourth time in his last six Test innings that he had passed 60 and yet failed to reach 75.

One Waugh ended but the other continued and, at stumps, was England's last significant obstacle. Steve Waugh, his place justified by batting alone while a shoulder injury prevents him from bowling, is as utilitarian as his brother is elegant, but he has never let this bother him.

He might have been out first ball, digging out an intelligent yorker from Gough when everyone, batsman included, suspected the bouncer that is

Waugh's customary welcome. Thereafter, he played in character, frequently looking uncomfortable against the short ball yet seldom threatened by it, while nudging and guiding his runs into the open spaces on this vast ground.

The England bowlers have seen more than enough of the sterner Waugh in recent years, though curiously he has been lenient upon them in his own country. Until Saturday, he averaged 102 in Ashes Tests in England and only 32 in Australia. A discrepancy he seemed determined to narrow.

There was plenty of work for the Waughs when they came together with the scoreboard at 100 for four. Michael Slater's tendency to behave like a cat on hot coals until he is into double figures saw him run out attempting a daft single to cover. DeFreitas acted smartly to effect the dismissal before, in his own eighth over, removing Taylor with a leg-before verdict given by the umpire. Steve Bucknor, long after most watchers had lost interest.

Michael Bevan continues to play as if his flair has been lost to responsibility, and was in a tangle against the abrasive lifter from Gough that dismissed him. Boon, however, played more fluently than anyone until being lured out by a clever piece of bowling and a sharp slip catch from Graeme Hick, who improved upon it with a stunning effort in the final over of the day, dismissing Warne and giving England proper cause to enjoy their festivities.

ENGLAND won toss
AUSTRALIA: First Innings
M J Slater run out (DeFreitas/Gelling) 3
(20min, 10 balls)
M A Taylor bow b DeFreitas 9
(25min, 41 balls, 1 four)
D C Boon c Hick b Tufnell 41
(48min, 100 balls, 4 fours)
M E Waugh c Thorpe b DeFreitas 71
(27min, 155 balls, 3 fours)
M G Bevan c Atherton b Gough 3
(25min, 28 balls)
S R Waugh not out 61
(17min, 157 balls, 2 fours)
I A Healy c Rhodes b Tufnell 17
(30min, 42 balls, 1 four)
S R Waugh c Hick b Gough 6
(27min, 25 balls)
Extras (lb 7, nb 2) 9
Total (7 wickets, 89.5 overs, 368 min) 220
G J McDermott, T B A May and D W Fleming to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10 (Taylor 3, 2-39 (Boon 22), 3-61 (M E Waugh 32), 4-100 (M E Waugh 32), 5-171 (S R Waugh 39), 6-228 (S R Waugh 56), 7-220 (S R Waugh 61)

BOWLING: Melbourne 21-4-55-0 (nb 1; 6-3-14-0, 7-1-18-0, 3-0-8-0, 3-0-10-0, 2-0-3-0; DeFreitas 18-0-52-2 (nb 1; 8-6-16-1, 4-0-10-0, 2-0-13-0, 4-1-11-1); Gough 18-5-58-2 (5-3-15-0, 7-3-8-1, 8-2-14-0, 1-5-0-8-1); Tufnell 26-7-48-0 (nb 1; 4-1-5-0, 11-4-31-1; 13-2-23-1); Hick 2-0-8-0 (one spell).

ENGLAND: M A Atherton, A J Stewart, G A Hick, G A Gough, G P Thorpe, M W Gelling, S R Rhodes, P A J DeFreitas, D Gough, D E Malcolm, P C R Tufnell.

Umpires: S A Bushnor (West Indies) and S G Randell (Australia).

TV replay umpires: W P Sheahan.

Match referee: J R Reid (New Zealand).

PREVIOUS MATCH: First Test (Brisbane): Australia won by 184 runs.

MATCHES TO COME: Third Test: Sydney (January 1 to 5); Fourth Test: Adelaide (January 26 to 30); Fifth Test: Perth (February 3 to 7).

Compiled by Bill Fendall

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The Ghost of Christmas Past, Hardaker of the League, revisits football with a haunting message

A game in grave need of goodwill

We are spirited into the Victorian abode at Lytham St Annes, where Alan Hardaker moved the headquarters of professional football. Hardaker was secretary — some said dictator — of the Football League from 1957 to 1979 and died a year into retirement. In a cavernous office, he sits impassively behind a desk, his hands, a cigarette in a silver box, but no chair.

"Do you remember that, in kinder moments, football folk called you the Bungling Ogre of St Annes?" I ask. "You can't bloody insult me!" Hardaker scoffs. "Hundreds tried and they weren't all that polite. Most went before me, but I see Jimmy Hill's still pontificating on the box." Hill is beyond forgiveness for his part in lifting the players' maximum wage, which Hardaker warned would bankrupt the game.

"If one generation takes it all, there'll be nothing for the next," he counselled. Hardaker's personality dominates the room, the building, the League, the professional game. The ghost is like the man, laced with a Cagney bluntness, a pugacity, a relish of verbal skirmish that "keeps the red corpuscles moving".

So what have they done to



Rob Hughes summons the spirit of a dictator whose warnings have proved ominously prescient

his game? "All this corruption — assumed corruption," he observes, chains rattling. "We've seen it before. The amounts are bigger. They've found a crock of gold at Sky TV and these so-called sponsors wait beer money everywhere, but the principle — or lack of it — is the same. I said I'd never hang a dog on the word of an ex-professional footballer. Well, who are today's managers — even, damn it, club chairmen?"

As ever, Hardaker would name names: "You can't sue the dead," he insists. No, but you can libel the living. Safer, for the moment, to remember parous days when barely a handful of League clubs were solvent. "The only power in my position was by proxy. In this chair, you see the whole panorama, it all passes through this office, but while the game was ruled by that lot of amateurs down in London, we had our hands tied."

The Football Association is now guided by Graham Kelly, a Hardaker apprentice at Lytham: "I felt that when we got one of our own into Lancaster Gate, we'd crack it."

the ghost says. "One good man could pull the whole game together."

Is Kelly doing that? The ghost is silent. Young Graham, Hardaker observed, could be deceptive. Do not be fooled by the lugubrious appearance. He came through the Lytham ranks, he would have heard the old man say: "Funny people, football people. They can be good to the wife and kids, they might go to church on a Sunday [Hardaker's roots in Hull were strict Methodist, but, at football, they'll try to break every rule and claim that's right for their club. But there's goodwill in football, good men: the trick is to seek them out, get them on your side against the hypocrites.]"

Hardaker's ghost will not judge Kelly, but, instead of uniting the north-south, pro-am enmities, the sport, or rather the business, has splintered. There is now a Premier League, a breakaway of the rich unwilling to service the debts of the poor.

Hardaker prophesied it: "Thirty-three years ago, the League Management Com-



mittee chairman, Joe Richards, and I offered The Pattern for Football. There was too much football at all levels: we offered a structure of five divisions of 20 clubs and a League Cup to go with it.

The clubs refused to streamline. They took the League Cup as an extra. They didn't listen then, or when I suggested a ceremonial burning of all coaching manuals. Anyone with a half-decent eye could see that players were diminished by the theorists. I wanted a return to the world where a player could run out feeling eight feet tall, knowing he had the freedom to express

his skills. I thought Jimmy Armfield, Tommy Docherty and Bobby Robson would lead us back to that."

The ghost of Hardaker can smile at the summer of 1994, when the coaching misdirection that failed to put an England team at the World Cup was torn up and when an administrator, Sepp Blatter, the secretary of Fifa, drafted new rules against destruction and encouraged skills.

Some reactionary players are still beating, but Hardaker always said players were worse than chairmen at knowing what is best. "I also said God help us if we are

ever daft enough to let that bloody lot [the chairmen] loose on the future of the game."

The industrialists are replacing the butchers and bakers of Hardaker's time as club chairmen. They tackle with legal representation and fiscal might. I can imagine Hardaker with Alan Sugar, trading coarse word for coarse word in some corridor, bartering for a compromise that might not be strictly legal but would have spared football the humiliation of 1994 in which the Tottenham Hotspur chairman mocked the FA by bringing legal force to escape

penalties. "I'm on record that we should never follow the American path of throwing lawyers at everything," Hardaker recalls. "Once the legal profession is brought into football, there's only one winner — the lawyers."

Time is running short. Hardaker would reminisce on the horrors, since his passing, of Heyes, Hillsborough and Bradford, and the Lord Chief Justice ordering £500 million of new, all-sea stadiums. He would rationalise his own outburst in 1977 against "parish Hitler" trying to cut capacities under the Safety of Grounds Act.

Foreigners, he warned, would be the ruin of English football. Agents, he swore, would never cross the threshold while there was breath in him. Corruptors and hypocrites were and are the enemy. But, Mr Hardaker, before you go, tell everybody about the unsolicited gift allegedly offered you to facilitate ITV's breaking of the BBC monopoly on football.

Hardaker... Silence. He had warned that he might disappear, off to see the grandchildren. Time to leave headquarters, to find our own way out.

New Zealand hit by disrupted build-up

SOUTH AFRICA, now without their retired cricket captain, Kepler Wessels, meet a New Zealand side short of any significant recent practice in the second Test match that starts at Kingsmead, Durban, today. New Zealand recorded a memorable 137-run win in the first match of a three-Test series in Johannesburg last month, but have since suffered five defeats and a weather-affected Mandela Trophy one-day match. Their preparations were further disrupted last week against Boland in Paarl, when both teams were dismissed on the first day on a sub-standard pitch, and the match was called off after one over on the second day.

New Zealand will be without their all-rounder, Dion

Nash, who trained his side during the first Test, but as compensation their most experienced strike bowler, Danny Morrison, returns.

South Africa, meanwhile, must cope without Wessels, who captained his country in 16 Tests after their return to the international fold. They have dropped the seamer, Richard Snell, and included two uncapped players in John Commings, the Boland batsman, and the young Transvaal fast bowler, Steven Jack, in their squad.

SOUTH AFRICA (from): A C Hudson, G Kruger, W J Cronje (captain), D J Cullinan, J N Rhodes, J G Combrin, S M Makhoo, D J Richardson, C R Matthews, P S de Villiers, S D Jack, G E Steyn, P L Symcox. **NEW ZEALAND**: S A Young, D J Murray, S P Fleming, M D Crowe, K Rutherford (captain), S A Thompson, A C Pearce, M N Lest, S B Doull, C Pringle or R P de Groot, D K Morrison.

FOR THE RECORD

FOOTBALL										S Wales Police: 25 Llandowry 17									
Bell's Scottish League										South Wales Police: Triest: Flowers 2									
Second division										Poole: Conn: Jones 2; Penn: Jones 2									
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Arbroath					890					Postponed: Aberystwyth v Treflech Utd:					Kilmarnock v Exhile Utd.				
McShane					50					Club matches					Jedburgh 10				
Edinburgh 10					13					Thames Spk 41					21				
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Francis and McGhee struggle with the enigmas of Dumitrescu and Joachim

Free spirits pose holiday problems

By Russell Kempson

GERRY FRANCIS and Mark McGhee will have eaten and taken liquid in conservative amounts yesterday. No Christmas bingeing for the managers of Tottenham Hotspur and Leicester City. In quieter moments, away from the wrapping paper and in-laws, they will have given further thought to two of the more vexing questions in the FA Carling Premiership: what to do with Ilie Dumitrescu and Julian Joachim?

Today, Francis takes Tottenham to Norwich City, with Dumitrescu included in an 18-strong squad after overcoming a knee injury. McGhee pits his new Premiership wits against Liverpool at Filbert Street, with Joachim ready to start a match — an ankle sprain permitting — for the first time in two months.

Dumitrescu and Joachim are similar free spirits, adventurous, extravagant players that charm team-mates and supporters alike. Romania always benefit from Dumitrescu's gliding artistry; England Under-21 owe much to Joachim's pace and perception. Yet, at club level, neither can, at present, tie down a place in the first team. In a sport in which collective gain is often more important than individual flair, they have

become surplus to requirements. Employment looms elsewhere unless their undoubted talents can be harnessed, without being blunted, within a team framework.

Of the pair Joachim, 20, has more room for optimism. Brian Little, the previous Leicester manager, had used him only sporadically this season as the side hurtled back towards the Endersleigh Insurance League first division. Now, with McGhee fresh at Filbert Street and untainted by past judgments, Joachim will be given the chance to conform and convince.

Dumitrescu, though, is still smouldering amid the fall-out from the departure of Osvaldo Ardiles, who paid Steaua Bu-

charest £2.6 million for him in the summer. Since Francis arrived at White Hart Lane, Dumitrescu's contribution has been minimal in a more graft-orientated line-up. From playing 13 times and scoring five goals under Ardiles, he has appeared for only 61 minutes in Tottenham's unbeaten five-match spell.

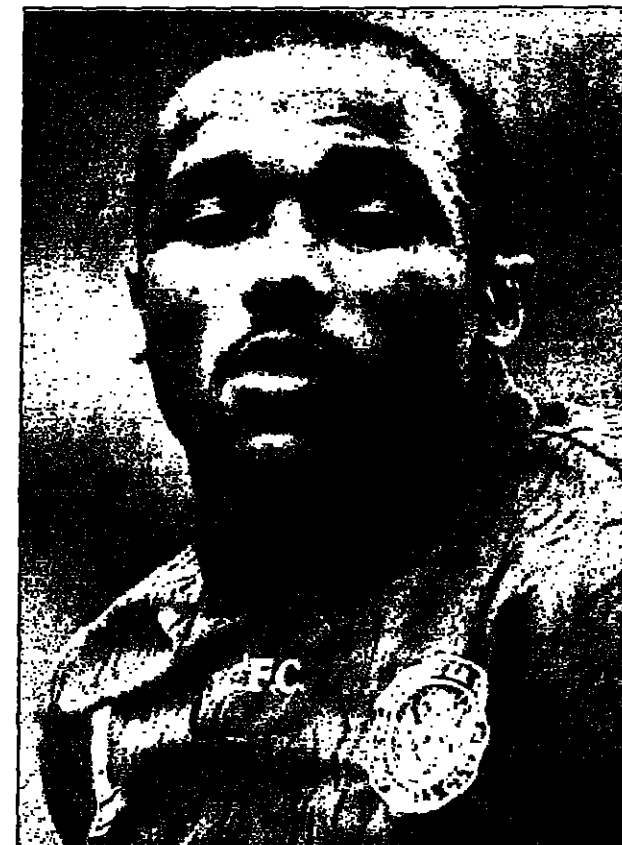
Last week, he asked to be placed on the transfer list. That there have been no inquiries since his availability became known is indicative of how other Premiership managers view his ability, especially at a mooted price of £3 million. Pretty, but a luxury.

At the serious end of the Premiership, Blackburn Rovers, the leaders, open their four-game festive series against Manchester City at Maine Road. Kenny Dalglish, the Blackburn manager, stayed away from pre-Christmas training, suffering from a stomach ailment, but will be at the helm as usual. With further matches against Leeds United, Crystal Palace and West Ham United, it could prove a profitable period.

Manchester United, the champions, play Chelsea at Stamford Bridge today and will be keen to swiftly redress the balance after losing 2-1 to Nottingham Forest at the pre-



Dumitrescu wants a fresh start with a new club



Joachim may enjoy better times under McGhee

viously impregnable Old Trafford nine days ago. They trail Blackburn by two points, with the season almost at its halfway stage, and must be favoured to complete a championship treble now their flirtation with Europe is over.

Newcastle United, three points away in third place, have drifted ominously of late — only one victory in six Premiership outings — but

should have Paul Bracewell back to recharge their injury depleted batteries against Leeds at Elland Road. A succession of groin operations has kept Bracewell sidelined since April.

Alan Ball is hindered by the same problem as Kevin Keegan at St James' Park — Monkou, Maddison, Ekelund, Charlton, Heaney and Kenna are all doubtful for

Southampton's home fixture with Wimbledon — while Ian Taylor and Guy Whittingham, who swapped shirts last week, will make debuts for their new clubs. Taylor plays against Arsenal at Aston Villa at Highbury, while Whittingham is at Goodison Park with Sheffield Wednesday against Everton. Whittingham may find it tough, though, as Everton have not

conceded a goal in more than 11 hours.

At a time of goodwill to all men, spare a thought for Ipswich Town. No manager, few points, little hope. They visit West Ham today and then take on Arsenal, Everton and Leicester. Were they to appoint S Claus as their new supreme, even he might struggle to present them with Premiership salvation.



Whittingham: move

Harriers prepare for record turnout

KIDDERMINSTER Harriers enter the holiday programme as the Vauxhall Conference's best-supported club, having drawn an average of 1,999 through the turnstiles at Aggborough this season (Walter Cammie writes). "Why they couldn't just round it up to 2,000, I don't know," Graham Allner, the manager, said, aware that the club will breeze through the barrier after the match against their Worcestershire rivals, Bromsgrove Rovers, today.

The corresponding fixture last season was watched by the season's biggest Conference crowd, 4,438, and Kidderminster hope to go near that figure again. The return on loan from Solihull Borough of Kim Casey, 33, has stirred added interest as Allner struggles with a list of casualties. Casey made it 177 goals in 240 matches in the 4-3 win away to Northwich Victoria last week.

Peter Wragg brings Stalybridge Celtic back to his former club, Macclesfield Town, who are seeking to ensure that their defeat at Farnborough last week is not the start of a wobble at the top of the table.

Another disputed derby will be Cheltenham Town's match at Gloucester City, where a battle for local supremacy has wider implications for the Beazer Homes League title chase.

Vikings, Lions, Packers and Bears still on course for Super Bowl

Four from Central set record with places in play-offs

By Our Sports Staff

THE strength in depth in the National Football Conference (NFC) Central division was amply illustrated on Saturday when four of its teams completed a clean sweep of the play-off positions. It is the first time in National Football League history that such a feat has been achieved.

The Minnesota Vikings, Detroit Lions, Green Bay Packers and Chicago Bears will contest the NFC title with the Dallas Cowboys and San Francisco 49ers, who had long since ensured themselves of the East and West divisional titles and who remain favourites to provide the NFC representative in Super Bowl XXX, in Miami on January 29.

Kansas City, with Joe Montana making a decisive contribution to their victory over the Los Angeles Raiders before sustaining a knee injury, and the New England Patriots, whose victory over the Bears in Chicago was their seventh in succession, secured the two remaining play-off places in the American Football Conference (AFC). The destination of the AFC Central title remains to be resolved by the final two matches of the regular season. Late last night, Detroit played in Miami, before, tonight, Minnesota are at home to San Francisco. Victory will assure the Vikings of the title but, if both they and Detroit lose, the Packers will earn home advantage when the play-offs begin next weekend. Detroit will not find Miami easy opponents — the team led by Dan Marino needs victory to deprive New England of the AFC East title. The Packers' emphatic 34-19



Thomas, of Dallas, is tackled by Booty during the New York Giants' 15-10 defeat of the Cowboys on Saturday

victory over the Buccaneers in Tampa was only their second outside Green Bay this season. "I guess it's not completely true that we can't win on the road," Brett Favre, their quarterback, said. "If ever there was a big road game, this was it. We're peaking at the right time and I don't think anyone

would want to play us." Favre, who threw three touchdown passes to Sterling Sharpe, completed 24 of 36 passes for 291 yards and an interception. Sharpe caught nine passes in total for 132 yards, taking him past the 1,000-yard mark for the fifth time. The game might have been the Buccaneers' last

in Tampa — the team is for sale after the death of Hugh Culverhouse, its owner.

The Bears reached the play-offs for the first time since 1991 despite their 13-3 defeat to the Patriots on Saturday, a result that ended the New York Giants' hopes of progressing. The Patriots, whose tremen-

dous late-season form has taken them into the post-season for the first time in eight years, led 6-3 thanks to Matt Bahr's second field goal. The Bears had two chances to tie the game, but Kevin Butler had a 39-yard field goal attempt blocked by Troy Barnett in the third quarter and missed a 36-yard attempt with eight minutes remaining. Drew Bledsoe's three-yard touchdown pass to Leroy Thompson with less than three minutes left in the fourth quarter sealed the Patriots' win. Bledsoe created an NFL record during the match for the number of pass attempts — 655 — in a season.

In Los Angeles, Montana threw for 214 yards and a touchdown before he was hurt. The Chiefs' 19-9 victory put them in the play-offs for the fifth successive year.

NFL DETAILS

RESULTS: Week 17: Atlanta 10 Arizona 8, Indianapolis 10 Buffalo 9, NY Giants 15 Dallas 10, Green Bay 34 Tampa Bay 18, New England 13 Chicago 3, Cincinnati 30 Philadelphia 30, Cleveland 35 Seattle 9, Kansas City 19 LA Raiders 9, New Orleans 30 Denver 28, Houston 24 NY Jets 10, San Diego 37 Pittsburgh 34, Washington 24 LA Rams 21.			
AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE			
East division			
	W	L	PF
New England	10	6	351 312
Miami	9	6	352 307
Indianapolis	8	6	307 320
Buffalo	7	9	340 358
NY Jets	6	10	284 320
West division			
	W	L	PF
Pittsburgh	12	4	318 234
Cleveland	11	5	340 204
Cincinnati	3	13	276 406
Houston	2	14	226 332
National Football Conference			
East division			
	W	L	PF
San Diego	11	5	381 306
Arizona	9	7	319 336
LA Raiders	9	7	303 327
Denver	7	9	347 336
Seattle	6	10	337 333
West division			
	W	L	PF
Dallas	12	4	414 248
NY Giants	8	7	278 305
Arizona	8	8	236 287
Philadelphia	7	9	308 308
Washington	3	13	320 412

Tonight: San Francisco at Minnesota.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather (°F)	Last snow
ANDORRA					
Soldeu	50	70	fair powder open	sun -9	22/12
(Pistes beginning to offer some great skiing)					
AUSTRIA					
Mayrhofen	15	40	fair varied closed	sun -10	22/12
(Pistes icy and worn by afternoon; 11 of 19 lifts open)					
Schladming	30	70	heavy closed	cloud -1	22/12
(Excellent skiing on upper pistes; ten of 78 lifts open)					
Saill	20	35	fair powder closed	cloud -2	23/12
(Soft powder on hard base; four of 12 lifts open)					
St Anton	20	100	good powder fair	sun -10	22/12
(Good powder on upper pistes; 18 of 32 lifts open)					
FRANCE					
Plaine	15	100	good powder closed	fine -8	19/12
(Lower pistes patchy; five of 28 lifts open)					
La Plagne	20	100	fair heavy some	fine -10	20/12
(North facing slopes remain good; 21 of 112 lifts open)					
Tignes	40	105	good varied fair	fine -4	23/12
(80 of 50 lifts open; great skiing on well-prepared pistes)					
ITALY					
Cervinia	10	200	good powder good	fine -1	20/12
(great conditions on all open pistes; ten of 27 lifts open)					
SWITZERLAND					
Verbier	15	80	good varied closed	fine -2	20/12
(19 of 39 lifts open; lovely piste skiing at Mont Fort)					

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

Van den Heede puts drama behind him

By Barry Pickthall

THE French solo yachtsman, Jean Luc van den Heede, who ran aground on an Australian beach after falling asleep on Christmas Eve, just 50 miles short of Sydney and the finish of the latest stage in the BOC Challenge round the world race, was counting his blessings yesterday. First, he salvaged his 60ft yacht, Vendée Enterprises, and then he completed the second leg of the race from Cape Town in time to claim second place. Despite the pounding his yacht received from the three-metre surf on the Port Kembla beach, it suffered only superficial damage to her hull and rigging.

"It is unbelievable," he said. "I didn't think it was

possible to save the boat. There are rocks all along the shore, both to the north and south. If I had landed there, I would be dead."

Steve Pettengill and his American Class 1 entry, Hunter's Child, moved up to second in the overall standings, 14 days behind Christophe Auguin, of France. The American had been slowed by broken rigging and a damaged boom.

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The Quiz of the Sporting Year compiled by John Goodbody

Which doctor was the FA's chief guest when England drew with Romania at Wembley?



A. He finished first in the men's race of the 1994 NutraSweet London Marathon. What is his nationality?



B. She finished first in the women's race of the 1994 NutraSweet London Marathon. What is her nationality?



C. This Australian rugby league player made his fourth and final tour of Britain in 1994. Who is he?



D. This former Commonwealth 800 metres champion was constantly in the news during 1994. Who is she?



E. First, he said yes. Then he said no. Which football manager finally agreed to join Leicester City?



F. The Essex man who answered an SOS from the England cricket party in Australia. Who is he?

JANUARY

1. Who was cleared on appeal by the Jockey Club of misuse of the whip when riding Bradbury Star in the King George VI Chase at Kempton Park?
2. What piece of music did Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean use for their return to competitive ice dancing at the British championships in Sheffield?
3. Which New Zealand rugby union international was signed by Wigan Rugby League Club for £400,000?
4. Who became involved in a brawl at a press conference to publicise a world title bout?
5. Why was Liu Dong, the world 1,500 metres champion, dropped from "Ma's family army", the Chinese group that has revolutionised middle and long-distance running?
6. Who was appointed manager of Southampton Football Club?
7. France beat Ireland in the five nations' rugby union championship at Parc des Princes. When did Ireland last win in Paris?
8. Which former Manchester United manager died, aged 84?
9. Who won the European ice dancing title in Copenhagen?
10. Who bowled the final over in his last home one-day international?
11. Who won the men's singles title at the Australian Open tennis championships?
12. Who won the women's singles title at the Australian Open tennis championships?

FEBRUARY

13. Who claimed he was "unfairly dismissed" as manager of the Wales football team?
14. Which British city withdrew from the bidding to stage the 2002 Commonwealth Games?
15. Who struck a post with a penalty, costing Ireland probable victory, in the five nations' rugby union championship match against Wales?
16. Who beat Arsenal, then the holders, in the FA Cup at Highbury?
17. Where were the Winter Olympics staged?
18. Who won the men's 1,000 metres speed skating event at the Winter Olympics?
19. Who became the first athlete aged over 40 to run a sub four-minute mile?
20. Who lost an Olympic silver medal when he was disqualified for pushing in the men's short-track 1,000 metres speed skating event?

MARCH

21. The Sporting Life trophy, first awarded in 1909, was presented to the winner of the 1994 NutraSweet London Marathon. However, a famous athletics club claimed it owns the trophy. Which club?
22. Geoff Cooke resigned as manager of the England rugby union team. In which year was he appointed?
23. Who did Terry Venables name as his first captain of the England football team?
24. In which city did the pacemaker run away with the race?
25. Who was appointed chairman of the England selectors by the Test and County Cricket Board?
26. Which Australian was given a suspended fine of £1,000 after a fracas with a spectator in the first Test match in Cape Town?
27. Colin Jackson won two events at the European indoor championships. One was the 60 metres hurdles. What was the other?
28. In the same championships, who became the first Briton for 44 years to win a European high jump title?
29. Which horse won the Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham?
30. Whose reign in Wales ended after 48 days?
31. Which horse was responsible for a famous French victory at Cheltenham?
32. Which country won the rugby union five nations' championship?
33. Who won the women's University Boat Race?
34. Who defeated Manchester United in the Coca-Cola Cup final?
35. What was England's second-innings total in the third Test at Port of Spain?

APRIL

36. England had a football international on April 20 cancelled because of security worries. Against whom?
37. Who alleged, before the Masters, that leading golfers were using beta-blockers to improve their putting?
38. Who won the Masters?
39. Which England rugby union international, who played in the 1991 World Cup final and won 55 caps, announced his retirement?
40. Who scored a century for England in each innings of the fourth Test against West Indies?
41. In which sport did a 15-year-old American schoolgirl get picked for the men's national under-17 squad?
42. Whose booking in the semi-final against Paris Saint-Germain cost him a place in the European Cup Winners' Cup final?
43. Who said: "It were snow. You



G. In the battle of the ice maidens did Nancy Kerrigan, above, or Tonya Harding, her American compatriot, below, win a figure skating medal at the Winter Olympics?



can tell the world it were snow? 44. How many pubs were there on the route of the 1994 London Marathon — 72, 92 or 122?

45. What was Brian Lara's record Test score, made against England in the fifth Test match in Antigua?
46. Who did England beat in the final of the women's rugby union World Cup?
47. Who was the starter of the Grand National?

MAY

48. Who beat Pete Sampras in the quarter-finals of the French Open tennis championships?
49. Which club did Wigan defeat in the fifth Test match in Antigua?
50. Who did Stephen Hendry beat in the final of the world snooker championship?
51. Who scored Arsenal's goal when they beat Parma in the European Cup Winners' Cup final?
52. Who became the first player to score two penalties in an FA Cup final?
53. What was the score in the

JUNE

54. Which county protested over the lack of adequate covers at Edgbaston in the Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-final?
55. Which British judo player lost her European title when she was penalised for holding inside her own jacket?
56. Who won the Indianapolis 500?
57. In which sport did a man and his girlfriend win European titles on the same day?
58. Which horse won the 1994 Derby?
59. Who rode the Derby winner?
60. Which Dutch footballer walked out of a training camp and declined to play for his country in the World Cup?
61. Who became the first Frenchwoman for 18 years to reach the final of the French Open tennis championships?
62. How many runs did Brian Lara score for Warwickshire in the first innings of the county champion-

JULY

63. Who set a world 100 metres freestyle swimming record of 48.21sec in Monaco?
64. Which Briton took part in a three-way play-off in the US Open golf tournament?
65. Who beat Steffi Graf in the first round of the women's singles at Wimbledon?
66. Which cricketer pleaded guilty in a north London court to the charge of causing actual bodily harm to his girlfriend?
67. Where did the British men's and women's athletics teams finish in the European Cup in Birmingham?
68. To whom did Martina Navratilova lose the final in her farewell appearance in the women's singles at Wimbledon?
69. Which former Wimbledon men's singles champion died in Spain from a heart attack as the 1994 championships were ending?

70. Who knocked Ireland out of the World Cup?
71. Who set a world 100 metres record in Lausanne?
72. Who said he had "completed the little hole my father left in his record"?
73. Whose penalty miss in the World Cup final meant Brazil had won?
74. Which country beat Britain in a Davis Cup Euro-African group one relegation play-off match?
75. Which member of the United States World Cup football team was signed as a kicker for the New York Jets?
76. How many times has Miguel Indurain won the Tour de France?
77. What nationality was the runner-up in the Tour de France?
78. Who won the women's hockey World Cup?

AUGUST

79. The Goodwill Games were held in St Petersburg. Who is married to the founder of the Games?
80. The Curtis Cup golf match ended in a 9-9 tie. So who holds the trophy?
81. Who was dismissed as coach after Jack Rowell took over as manager of the England rugby union team?
82. In which country were the World Equestrian Games held?
83. Who became the first Yorkshire player to appear in a Test match at Leeds since 1981?
84. Who confessed to taking, inadvertently, a banned drug contained in a pill called "Up Your Gas"?
85. How many times has Linford Christie won the 100 metres at the European championships?
86. Who won the 400 metres gold medal at the European championships?
87. Which British cyclist won the world 4,000 metres professional pursuit title?
88. Nick Gillingham won the men's 200 metres breaststroke gold medal at the Commonwealth Games. To whom did he dedicate his victory?
89. Who became the youngest gold medal-winner for England in the 64-year history of the Commonwealth Games?
90. Who was disqualified after finishing first in the Belgian Grand Prix?

SEPTEMBER

91. Which county won the NatWest Trophy final?
92. Which team won the athletics World Cup final at Crystal Palace?
93. Who beat Michael Stich in the men's singles final of the US Open tennis championships?
94. Which leading British athlete ended the season unbeaten at his event?
95. Who won the single sculls lightweight title at the world rowing championships?
96. Who partnered Steve Redgrave in the coxless pairs final at the same championships?
97. Which former England cricketer was presented with the MBE insignia by the Governor of New South Wales?
98. Who knocked out Lennox Lewis to win the WBC heavyweight title?
99. What was the nationality of the man who set the record for swimming the English Channel?
100. Who won his fifth national show jumping title during the Horse of the Year Show?

OCTOBER

101. Who became the last 14-year-old allowed to play on the women's professional tennis tour after the qualifying age was raised?
102. Who returned to Stoke City as manager?
103. Who returned to Oxford University as the director of coaching for rowing?
104. Which of the home countries lost to Moldova in the European football championships?
105. Which doctor was the chief guest of the Football Association when England played Romania at Wembley?
106. Which British rugby league player was sent off in the first international against Australia?
107. Who scored Great Britain's try in the 8-4 victory against Australia in the same rugby league international?
108. Who won golf's Solheim Cup?
109. Who knocked Tottenham Hotspur out of the Coca-Cola Cup?
110. Who won the Volvo Masters golf tournament in Valderrama?

NOVEMBER

111. Which world record-holder in athletics lost his case, originating from a ban for drug taking, in the Supreme Court in America?
112. Who knocked Newcastle United out of the UEFA Cup?
113. By what score did Barcelona defeat Manchester United in the European Cup Champions' League match at the Nou Camp?
114. Which great cricket all-rounder retired?
115. Who did George Foreman defeat to win the IBF and WBA heavyweight titles?
116. In which city did Michael Schumacher's car collide with that of Damon Hill, so ensuring that the German won the Formula One drivers' championship?

117. Which home country lost to Georgia in the European football championship?
118. To whom did Martina Navratilova lose her last professional match?
119. The profits from the 1994 Wimbledon championships were announced. To the nearest million pounds, what were they?
120. Who became the first Briton for 18 years to win the RAC Rally?
121. Who won the Royal Liver Assurance UK snooker championship?



H. Who was the Test match referee when Michael Atherton was involved in a ball-tampering controversy?



I. Who became, in June, the first England rugby union player for 19 years to be sent off?



J. This woman won the world 200 metres freestyle title after failing to qualify for the final. Who is she?



K. This former Chelsea and Celtic footballer lost a legal case in the High Court during 1994. Who is he?

DECEMBER

122. Who was called into the Wales squad for the first time at the age of 29?
123. Which country won the men's hockey World Cup?
124. Where did England finish in the same event?
125. Who won the rugby union University match at Twickenham?
126. The points total of the two teams was the highest in the 113 University matches. How many were scored?
127. Which England fast bowler was sent home from Australia because he had a stress fracture of the shin?
128. How many kicks at goal did Rob Andrew miss in England's rugby union victory over Canada?
129. How did Chris Eubank beat Henry Wharton in the WBO super-middleweight bout in Manchester?
130. Who played rugby union for Cambridge in the Varsity match despite having a "professional" rugby league background?

Answers, page 24



Mere figures of fun and fame

Magic numbers fill the sports pages and haunt the sporting mind: mere figures which carry the whiff of greatness, the stench of defeat. Simon Barnes invited suggestions for the magic numbers of sport: here are some which cover the mightiest deeds and the most obscure, a list that links Bradman with the Devonian skittle alley, Lara with a darts thrower

6 Tottenham Hotspur, who started the season penalised six points for financial irregularities. The figure, for all that the punishment has now been overturned, will surely never be forgotten.

0 Cricketer's number of fear, associated with everyone who ever played the game, but in particular, with Don Bradman, and his last innings in Test cricket.

0 Damon Hill, who carried the number on his car, and who finished the season with rewards to match.

3 The hat-trick has magic in many sports, but surely the number must belong to Geoff Hurst for his three goals in the World Cup final of 1966.

3 Red Rum also has a claim for the number, for his three victories in the Grand National.

3 This is also baseball's core number: three strikes and you're out. What's more, it was the number Babe Ruth wore on his back. Ruth is one of the two people who have scored three home runs in a World Series game. The other is Reggie Jackson, who did so off three successive turns at bat, off three successive pitches thrown by three different pitchers.

4 It is the number four, rather than the time itself that is forever associated with Roger Bannister. It was not, and never has been, the 3min 59.4sec rule: it was the four-minute rule, and always will be.

4 The show jumping number: I would happily take a pint for every time the sound of a clattering pole behind me has signalled four faults.

4 There are certain footballers who establish an eternal claim on the number they wore on their jerseys. This one is for Danny Blanchflower.

5 This is one of the most extraordinary records of modern sporting records. It is for Bjorn Borg, and his five successive Wimbledon singles titles.

5 This is also a magic number in cycling: five wins in the Tour de France, a feat achieved by Bernard Hinault, Eddy Merckx and Jacques Anquetil.

5 And it is a magic number for Formula One motor racing, too, not for Nigel Mansell's racing car, but for Juan Manuel Fangio, and his five world championships. There was a time when I thought I would see that beaten fairly soon, but that was before May 1.

5 And finally, a five for National Hunt racing, and Michael Dickinson, who had an *annus mirabilis* in 1983. The summit of his achievement was to train the first five horses past the post in the Cheltenham Gold Cup.

6 We go to ice skating, and to Torvill and Dean. "Nine perfect sizes and every one of them a six". Pom ... papa pom papa pom ...

6 Another of cricket's magic numbers and forever to be associated with Garry Sobers and, of course, the luckless or hapless Malcolm Nash. Six sixes in an over, and every one of them a six: neither Sobers, batter, nor Nash, bowler, will forget it, or be allowed to.

7 The first of a gamut of sevens must go to Mark Spitz, who won seven gold medals for swimming and moustache growing at the Munich Olympics in 1972.

7 But we can't let the number go without bringing in Wigan, and their seven consecutive victories in the rugby league Challenge Cup. Every year, their pursuers improve. And so do Wigan.

7 Motor racing also has a claim for the number with both Stirling Moss and Barry Sheene bearers of the magic figure.

7 When it comes to footballing sevens, there can, I suppose, be but one choice, and that's Stanley Matthews. After all, only a nonpareil can claim a footballing shirt for his own.

7 But I hear a claim for seven from the mad world of golf: yes, it was a seven-iron with which Sandy Lyle hit one of the bunker shots of history to win the US Masters in 1988.

9 And onward to Martina Navratilova, who won nine Wimbledon singles titles and deserved to be called the greatest tennis player in history.

9 Nobody has offered an argument about football's all-time owner of the No 9 shirt: Tommy Lawton "that tall Adonis who rose like an angel above the mere mortals whose penance was to stop him. That number on his back seemed to lift him as with wings ...", says D H Thomas.

9.79 The number in seconds for the fastest 100 metres ever run. Not a world record, since the runner was Ben Johnson. It remains the time to beat, and one day it surely will be beaten. It will be a triumph of athleticism, or perhaps of pharmacology.

9.99 The first run beneath the 10-second barrier in the 100 metres: the athlete Jim Hines, the year 1968, a year in which it was believed that drugs helped you to listen to records, not break them.

10 Rugby union's pivotal position, and a rare area for scene-stealing, personal responsibility and control of a game. If any one player can be awarded the stand-off's number, I suppose it must be Barry John.

10 The magic number for gymnastics, and in particular, for Nadia Comaneci, who was the first competitor to score a perfect 10 at the Olympic Games.

10 Also the number for Hedley Verity, who in 1932, playing for Yorkshire against Nottinghamshire, took 10 for 10, still the most economical destructive analysis in a first-class cricket innings.

10 The numbers of years Martin Peters was ahead of his time.

10 Pelé.

12 David Fairclough: the supersub, remember him? Played for Liverpool, used to come on with 20 minutes left and score every time. Asked to play over 90 minutes, the magic vanished.

12 The most recent number on the list, its magic has yet to pass the test of time. Better written, perhaps, as 12/12, it refers to the perfect rugby union piece-kicking of Rob Andrew for England against Canada two weeks ago.

14 In American team games, you play in the same number for as long as you stay with your team, and sometimes, if you are especially wonderful, when you retire, they also retire your number. 14 is Joe Montana, the greatest quarterback that ever drew breath.

14 But it is also the number for the greatest orchestrator that football has produced: Johann Cruyff, a man for whom an entire team became an expression of single personality.

15 Another one from rugby union, and another Welsh one, the Welsh being more willing than most to canonise individuals and worship numbers in this game. J P R Williams, of course.

19 The first two 19s were perhaps the most popular numbers of all those contributed. The first is for golf, and the 19th and best of all holes. I can imagine, though I have never shared the relief that must accompany stopping playing golf.

19 One of the greatest achievements in cricket - Jim Laker's 19 for 90 in 1956 against Australia. It would, of course, have been frightfully vulgar to take all 20 in the match.

19 This is a magic number in the great sport of Australian No Rules Football: the 19th man, figure of legend, was, until rule changes introduced multiple substitution,



the reserve, clearly the best position to play in this most crazy of games.

23 The team number for Michael Jordan, incomparable basketball player and occasional singles hitter with the Birmingham Barons baseball team.

27 The magic number in skittles: three consecutive floggers, no less, or nine pins down with each throw. Allan Weller writes: "I know old men who have played the game for a lifetime and have never seen a 27-spare scored. Let alone achieved it themselves. I had the good fortune to have this pinnacle of a skittler's prowess recorded against my name at the Rose and Crown Inn in Caverleigh, Devon ... it provided me with the greatest buzz I have ever experienced."

29 Bob Beamon. The precise measure of that feat, not so much a long jump as a quantum leap, was 29ft 2½ in; but it's the 29 that counts. Until Beamon did his stuff in 1968, no one had got beyond 28ft. His record finally went to Mike Powell in 1991.

WINNERS

THERE were, inevitably, many duplications of suggestions and in such cases the award of a bottle of Bell's eight-year-old whisky was based on such matters as multiplicity of entry, depth of detail, aptness of citation. Thanks to all who entered.

WINNERS: J Benedict; J R Beard; G Brasher; Ray Brox; M J Clarke; Christopher Eyles; Ray Frank; Gervey; D Henderson; Simon Hicks; Anthony Hodges; Arthur Leyland; Sarmas Macdon; Peter Naylor; David Rocker; Mike Rose; Richard Souton; Norman Silver; Frank Smith; D H Thomas; Alan Walker; Neil Whitehead; Barry Willis; Joseph Wilson; Eric Winslow.

31 The number of times Yorkshire have won cricket's county championship outright. Magical enough, I suppose, but perhaps, we should also include 26, the number of years since they last won the thing.

45 The age of George Foreman when he did the impossible and made boxing look more ridiculous than it ever has before.

46 Another suggested age for Foreman.

47 And maybe George was this age. It depends on the newspaper you prefer. I think Foreman is lying: he looks at least 60 to me.

48 The number of goals Gary Lineker scored for England. I suppose we should also include the magic number of two, which is the total number of England goals scored by Alan Smith, who came on as sub for Lineker in Lineker's last game for England.

49 The number of goals that Bobby Charlton scored for England: the record Gary couldn't beat. Remember that one against Mexico? One of those few goals you can see any time you want to.

60 The number of goals scored by Dixie Dean in 39 matches for Everton in the season 1927-28.

65 A magic number in golf, and not because the Dunlop 65 ball was first made in 1965, because it wasn't. The ball commemorates a round of golf: Henry Cotton's 65 at Sandwich in 1934 in the second round of the Open, which set him up for the first of his three Open victories.

99 Another shirt number, this one for Wayne Gretzky, "the Great One". "Being asked to play with Gretzky is like being asked to pray with the Pope" - Tony Granato.

99.94 Sir Donald Bradman's Test match batting average, from 52 matches, 80 innings, 10 not outs, aggregate 6,966. Had he scored four in his last innings, rather than a duck, he would have averaged exactly 100. But where's the magic in that? Bradman was clearly a man of human frailty. It made up 0.06 per cent of his nature.

100 Brings us to the Grand National again, and

Foinavon, who in 1967, won the race at odds of 100-1.

106 Bobby Charlton again, clearly a man around whom magic accrues. This was the number of caps he won.

125 The record number of England football caps was actually set by Peter Shilton; Charlton's figure has the more magic.

138 Another obscure one: yes, darts, and this was Keith Deller's finish to win the world championship in the final against the great Eric Bristow in 1984.

147 This, of course, is snooker's magic number, the elusive and cherished maximum. Cliff Thorburn, first to perform the feat at the world championship, has the best claim for it.

149 Ian Botham: for his famous let's-give-it-some-humpty innings that set up England for that win against Australia at Headingley in 1981.

167 Martina Navratilova again: the number of singles titles she won.

180 Another magic number from darts: the maximum from three darts.

197 The number of first-class centuries scored by Jack Hobbs, a record, a magic number, an unattainable target and, best of all, that little bit short of round-numbered perfection.

269 The number of winners ridden by Sir Gordon Richards over the Flat in 1947.

298 The highest number of runs ever conceded by a bowler in the course of a single innings, a feat achieved by "Chuck" Fleetwood-Smith at the Oval in 1938.

300 Another number for perfection: the perfect game in tenpin bowling, ten successive strikes (like a flopper, I suppose, but different).

304 Bradman against England, Headingley 1934.

333 Graham Gooch's innings against India. The old boy who shows you're never too old for heroics.

334 Bradman once again: against England at Headingley 1930.

375 Only now do we get into Brian Lara territory. This was his record-breaking Test innings, scored against the demon bowlers of England earlier this year.

404 This was the score made by Australia to beat England, again at Headingley, in 1948.

501 And to Lara once again: the highest first-class innings ever, made this year for Warwickshire. "I'm struggling to see the funny side, but it will be good to know I was part of history." Chris Scott, Durham's wicket-keeper, who dropped Lara on 18.

501 This is also the magic number for darts, and is best associated with the great John Lowe, who achieved that in nine darts and so won himself the trifling sum of £100,000.

555 Holmes and Sutcliffe, one of the great department stores of cricketing legend. Percy Holmes and Herbert Sutcliffe set this little figure as an opening stand for Yorkshire against Essex in 1932. The figure stood as the highest opening stand in first-class cricket until 1976.

588 The number of balls bowled by Sonny Ramadhin for West Indies against England at Edgbaston in 1957. It remained the highest number bowled by one man in a first-class innings until equalled by Arshad Ayub for Hyderabad against Madhya Pradesh in 1992.

628 The highest individual innings ever recorded in any level of cricket: A E J Collins, over four afternoons of a junior house match at Clifton in 1899. The only target Brian Lara has left, in fact.

722 This was the Mercedes-Benz driven by Stirling Moss to win the Mille Miglia in 1955: 1,000 miles at an average speed of 97.95 mph.

903 Runs scored by England against Australia in the first innings of the Oval Test match of 1938, still the highest innings total in Test cricket.

1,107 Runs scored by Victoria against New South Wales in 1926, the highest total in all first-class cricket.

1,142 The number of minutes of international football played by the Italian goalkeeper, Dino Zoff, without conceding a goal, between September 1972 and June 1974. I suppose this also gives him a claim for the number one.

3,816 Another figure to commemorate 1947: it was also the *annus mirabilis* for Denis Compton, and the magic number represents the first-class runs he scored in that English season. Nobody has beaten the record, nor is anyone likely to.

7,337 The number of points scored by the rugby union player Dusty Hare. He did most of the work by booting over penalties for Nottingham, Leicester, England and the British Isles.

199,854 This remains, and will probably always remain, the highest attendance for a football match. It was inevitably at the Maracana in Rio, in 1950, the final match of the World Cup. And Uruguay won 2-1 - "Other countries have history, we have football," said the Uruguayan manager Onofre Viera.



**ANSWERS TO
SPORTS QUIZ
ON PAGE 20**



BOXING Day rugby league meetings between Wigan and St Helens create a host of stirring memories, but none quite so momentous as the extraordinary events that had Knowsley Road in raptures two years ago.

The outcome was startling enough: St Helens 41, Wigan 6. Like today, Wigan led the Stones Bitter Championship and St Helens were in danger of dropping out of the race if they lost. It was an intoxicating performance, little short of perfection — the sort of rejoinder to Wigan's dominance the home side would dearly love to repeat when play starts at 11.30am to today.

Wigan had not experienced a league defeat on such a scale for 20

years. It was, however, the contemptuous manner of the drubbing that distinguished a St Helens display that went an astonishing 67 minutes before the first dropped pass. By then, they were way beyond catching.

St Helens still threw the ball around in their time-honoured fashion. It was simply that every risk came off spectacularly. Negative play has never been St Helens' way. Under Eric Hughes, coach for the past 12 months, the philosophy remains unaltered, but with the developing awareness of playing responsibly, there is a danger of losing its style.

What price a repeat of Knowsley Road, 1922? As Leeds showed a fortnight ago, Wigan are not unbeatable. Not that the result two years ago changed the destination of the

championship: what it did was turn the second half of that season into a gripping one — and how the present one-horse league race could do with the impetus of another, similar upset.

Nowhere is Wigan's dominance felt more keenly than in St Helens and especially at a pub in Billinge — which lies between the two towns — where loyalties are divided. The pub is run by the parents of Gary Connolly, whom many St Helens supporters cannot forgive for switching last season to Wigan — nor the club directors, who sold him for £250,000.

The departure of the Great Britain centre looked, to some, like an admission of defeat, a blithe acceptance of Wigan's superiority. St Helens lost three times last season to their fiercest rivals, including the

revenge by Wigan, last Christmas, with a 40-8 victory at Central Park. Dropping points when they least expect to — they were surprisingly beaten by Doncaster and Salford and could only draw at Oldham — remains St Helens' biggest failing, but the harder the task, the better St Helens seem to perform.

Connolly's return to his former club will result in some bitter glances, but St Helens have rebuilt well and brought in players themselves. As Bobby Goulding was once at Wigan, it is not merely his inspirational presence at scrum half that can be trumpeted. Up against Shaun Edwards, the Britain captain, their battle could hold the key. In Connolly's old shirt, Scott Gibbs, the former Wales rugby union centre, gets better by the game and it will be

interesting to see how he fares in his first derby match.

"It's a test of our ability and a measure of how we've progressed," Hughes adds. "If we are going to challenge for the championship, realistically we have to win this one."

The same applies to Leeds, still in the points drift of Wigan in second place, who play at Hull. Although not a derby, the rivalry between the two is traditionally intense. Castleford and Halifax, as they do each Christmas, take on, respectively, Featherstone Rovers and Bradford Northern, while, in mid-table, Salford and Oldham meet each at The Willows... Whether Sheffield Eagles and Doncaster evolve into a seasonal fixture remains to be seen. Doncaster are struggling to survive, with debts of £1.4 million.

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ECHOES of a former angling world of rugged union's modern era today while such traditional conflicts as those between Bath and Clifton, Gloucester and Lydney and Redruth and Camborne are fought out the west and the two Harlepool clubs sustain their Boxing Day rivalry, league rugby remains at Pontypool Park and Stirling County bringing their proud record south for examination at Northampton.

The one Heineken League match takes Neath — who may hold the key to this season's championship, even if they do not win it — to Pontypool. Victory today would lift them to third place in the first division, but victory there would mean a return to Cardiff, would ensure at least a two-horse race for the title, between Cardiff and Pontypool.

Andrew Kembury is due to return to Neath's back row after only the odd appearance since the turbulent match on November 2 against the South Africans, during which he suffered a dead leg. "If I was the Welsh coach, I would remember him," Kitch Christie, the South Africa coach, said with feeling before his side's departure earlier this month.

only to be held back by injury. Ian plays in a promising back row that includes Ian Bobbonyer and the talented Richard Munn, while Matthew McCarthy links with David Llewellyn at half back.

Would that Pontypool could boast such depth. They held Neath to 18-12 at the Groll in September, but have only three league wins to their credit: they will field their latest international in the centre, Mark Taylor, who is also due to play for the Barbarians at Leicester tomorrow.

Since they began travelling south to the Midlands in 1991, Stirling County have gained a well-deserved reputation for attractive rugby, even though last season's fix with Northampton ended in a 55-7 defeat. This season, they head the McEwan's League first division with an unbeaten record, though they will be without several first-team regulars - including the exciting Kenny Logan, who is also with the Barbarians the next day.

Ian McGeerhan, Northampton's Scottish director of rugby, knows their worth as well as most, though his primary ambition will be to build his own team's morale for the league encounters of the new year.

"If he's got the guts to take on a Springbok pack, he'll take on anybody. Maybe that energy should be channelled in the right direction, but he's a big, strong lad, he did well at the back of the lineout, he put some big tackles in, he rucked and mauled well, he's a guy with potential. You look for big forwards like that in world rugby today."

It was a notable tribute to the oft Sir Kembery, who, at 25, has sometimes seemed on the verge of a bright future

anelli 54

By JOHN HOPKINS

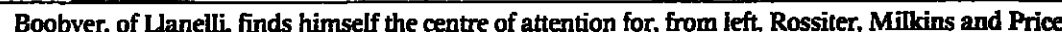
THERE is just no pleasing some people. After a Christchurch five counties trial that contained no hints for Llanelli wings and some crisp inter-passing and counter-attacking, you might have thought that the home team's supporters would have departed full of festive cheer. But no: two knowledgeable men of high rank within the home club could not bring themselves to cheer at all.

They bemoaned the falling standards of club rugby in Wales, down ever from a couple of years ago, they said. And they were right. Llanelli had its season of seasons. Nearly 150 tries were scored, so many that Heineken, the league's sponsors, paid out a bonus. Everything that was possible went. Llanelli's is not the case now.

This game attracted a crowd of 3,000 and more of the red seats in the new North stand — the building of which is said to have plunged Llanelli into debt of £500,000 — were empty than full. Llanelli are not alone among first division clubs in Wales in seeing their attendances fall this season.

Speak as you find, however, and, after a dreary drive down a fog-ridden motorway, this visitor spent a happy afternoon at Stradey Park. Tea in a room containing a photograph of the late Carwyn James and the lingering memories of this match meant he left the famous west Wales ground with a feeling that all was not as bad at Stradey as he had been led to believe.

Consider the Llanelli back



division, for example: only one was over 22 and, if some maturity was lacking, then there was no shortage of youthful exuberance. It was a pleasure to watch the ball being moved so quickly through so many pairs of hands and to see such enthusiasm for running with the

one, they did produce their share of attractive rugby. Wayne Proctor scored four tries and was hunting for a fifth with the frenzy of a last-minute Christmas shopper. More impressive than any of his, however, was his side's second. It came from quickly-won lineout ball and involved

a miss-move in the centre and the delivery of the ball to the tall, slim, fresh-faced Garán Evans on the left wing when he was ready to move at speed and had room to do so.

He cut back inside Mark Williams and then inscribed a graceful arc around the outstretched arms of Andrew

Price, the Abertillery full back, before striding elegantly over the line for his first try in a league match. In due course, he would score two more, but it was this one that set the tongues wagging in the stand.

"What a terrific try," Gerald Davies, a bit of a wing

DUNVANT dealt an untimely blow to Bridgend's hopes of winning the Heinken League title with a 10-6 home win on Saturday. Gavin Davies, the centre, scored a try, converted by Booth, before Dean Evans, the captain, kicked the penalty that clinched the victory.

division: South Wales Police came from behind to defeat Llandoverly 25-17, with the centre, Alan Flowers, scoring two tries, while Cross Keys won 32-13 at Narberth after trailing at the interval. Laurie Watkins, the wing, scored a try, and kicked a conversion and four penalties for Cross Keys.

Evans (3), Davies, Proctor (4). Conversion: Stephens (2), Strange. Penalty goal: Stephens. Try: M Williams. Conversion: M Williams. Penalty goals: M Williams (2). L LANELLE: J Strange; W Proctor, N Boobyer, M Wintle, G Evans, C Stephens, R Hames, R Evans, R McByrde, S John, C Quinnett, P Davies, L Williams, A McPherson, I Hambrow. McPherson replaced by A Lamerfont (54 min). McByrde replaced by P Young (75).
ABERTILLERY: A Price; M Williams, R Roberts, S Connors, A Richards; K Price, M Rossiter, J Malmearing, C Meilkins, B Coppe, B Gladwin, J Cloaro, M Griffiths, J Williams, R Price.
WRINERS: R Pickett (A home watch).

FOOTBALL

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

POND CARS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Bohernabreena v Derry (3:15); Cork v Athlone, Galway v Shelbourne (4:0).

RUGBY UNION

Kirkcaldy 2-0 unless stated

First division

Pontypool v Neath

Cup matches

Aberavon v Swansea
Cardiff v Ebbw Vale
Barnard v Clifton (3:0)
Bedford v Bedfordshire (3:0)
Berkeley H v Cheltenham
Brighthelm v Bath
Bristol v Newport (3:0)
Broughton Park v Sale
Canterbury v Cardiff
Cwmrhyll v Warrackville (3:0)
Exeter v President's XV (3:0)
Gloucester v Gloucestershire (2:15)
Hemel Hempstead v West Hartlepool (2:15)
Hereford v Luctumans
Kendal v Glasgow
Lampeter v Llanidloes
Llanelli v London Welsh
Lydney v Gloucester (3:0)

Second division

Barnstaple v Rugby (3:0)
Newbridge v Glamorgan Wanderers
Newcastle Geographical v Northern (3:0)
Northampton v Worcester County (3:0)
Old Penarthians v Penarth (1:1)
Pontypridd v Treorchy
Rugby v Cambridge
St Albans v Bournemouth Park
Weston v Brynawladre and Abdon (3:0)
Woking v Aspinall (2:0)
Wotton v Jed-Forest (2:0)
Wyke v Wakefield (2:0)
Yarmouth v Colchester (2:0)
Glasgow Trades v Huddersfield (12:0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Staines Bull Championship

First division

Castleford v Featherstone (11:30).
Hull v Bradford (3:0)
Leeds v Leeds (9:0)
Salford v Oldham (3:0)
Sheffield v Doncaster (8:15)
St Helens v Wigan (11:30)
Tottenham v Widnes
Workington v Wakefield (3:0)

Second division


Bramley v Hunslet (3:0)
Carlisle v Barrow (2:0)
Dewsbury v Batley (11:30)
Doncaster v Halifax (3:0)
Leigh v Nantwich (3:0)
Rochdale v Salford (3:0)
Ryedale York v Huddersfield (12:0)

OTHER SPORT

HOCKEY: BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Bezingrook v Cardiff (3:0), Nottingham v Humberston (1:30), Sheffield v Rotherham (1:30), South Shields v Durham (6:30), First division: Chesterfield v Macclesfield (6:30), Durmston v Parsley (6:30), Solihull v

THE

Win an f



To enter all you have to do is fill in *The Times*. The first three winners will appear below. The prize for each winner is:

- Return flights from London to New York
- Seven nights' first-class hotel accommodation
- Transfers between the airport and hotel
- Grandstand tickets to the game
- Dinner on one evening at the hotel
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Each week, Sky Sports offer a special prize for the Premiership and FA Cup footballing and basketball.

Day two questions. All questions worth 10 points.

- 4) What was unusual about the first test?
- 5) Who scored the slowest century in the present series?
- 6) How many sixes did Ian Botham score at Old Trafford in 1981?


When you have the answers to these questions, fill in the card with your name and address and post it to: Contest, 33 Bouverie Street, London EC4N 3DF.

The winner will be the first to receive by the closing date, 10.11.81. Normal Times Newspapers & Newsagents.

[illegible]

THE TIMES

Win an £8,000 trip down under



The fourth Test match in the current Ashes tour will be broadcast live on Sky Sports – but *The Times* and Britain's leading television sports channel will make the match even more exciting for one cricket-loving couple.

Enter the second part of our competition today and you could win a trip for two to Adelaide at the end of January.

To enter all you have to do is answer correctly the six questions which have appeared in *The Times*. The first three questions appeared in Saturday's paper and three more appear below. The prize features:

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- Seven nights' first-class hotel accommodation in Adelaide, including breakfast;
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Day two questions. All questions relate to England-Australia Test matches

- 4) What was unusual about the dismissal of Robin Smith at Lord's in 1993?
- 5) Who scored the slowest century in these matches (before the present series)?
- 6) How many times did Ian Botham hit off Dennis Lillee at Old Trafford in 1981?

When you have the answers to all six questions send your entries with your name and address to: *The Times/Sky Ashes Tour Contest*, 33 Bouverie Street, London EC3N 5NG.

The winner will be the first correct entry drawn from all received by the closing date, midnight on January 6, 1995. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply.



Court of Appeal

Law Report December 26 1994

Court of Appeal

Judicial amendment of words in statute

Regina v Moore
Before Lord Justice Hobhouse, Mr Justice Judge and Mr Justice Sedley
[Reasons December 13]

The words "the following provisions of this Act" in section 1C of the Powers of Criminal Courts Act 1973, as inserted by section 8 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991, were in conflict with the expressed intent of the amending statute. It was therefore for the court to construe the 1991 Act and the amendments made to the 1973 Act so as to resolve that inconsistency.

The proper resolution of the inconsistency was to give priority to what was both the express intention of section 8 of the 1991 Act and, more generally, the policy of that Act by treating section 1C(1)(a) as ending with the words "under the preceding provisions of this Act".

That would mean that *R v Tarry* (1970) 54 Cr App R 322 was still good law. It had been because of a change in the structure and wording of the legislation, not a change of legislative or appellate policy, that a judge had been entitled to believe that that case no longer stood and that he had power to sentence the appellant for reoffending during the operational period of a suspended sentence, notwithstanding that the justices who gave notice to the crown court had also conditionally discharged the appellant for the material offences.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in a reserved judgment giving reasons for allowing on December 22 the appeal of Miss Deborah Jane Moore from a decision of Judge Rodwell, QC, on October 22, 1994, at Luton Crown Court, imposing three years probation order for breach of a suspended sentence imposed at that court on February 14, 1992.

Section 1C of the 1973 Act, as inserted, provides: "(1) ... a conviction for which an order is made ... discharging the offender ab-

solutely or conditionally, shall be deemed not to be a conviction for any purpose other than - (a) the purposes of the proceedings in which the order is made and of any subsequent proceedings which may be taken against the offender under the following provisions of this Act."

Section 8 of the 1991 Act provides: "(2) Section 13 of [the 1973 Act] (effect of probation and discharge) shall cease to have effect so far as relating to offenders placed on probation."

"(3) For the purpose of re-arresting Part 1 of that Act ... that Part shall have effect subject to the following amendments, namely - (a) after section 1 there shall be inserted as sections 1A to 1C the provisions set out in Part 1 of Schedule 1 to this Act (sections 7 and 9 (which are re-enacted with minor modifications by sections 1A and 1B) shall cease to have effect; (b) sections 8 and 13 (which, so far as relating to discharged offenders, are re-enacted with minor modifications by sections 1B and 1C) shall cease to have effect so far as relating to offenders placed on probation."

Miss Ann Mulligan, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Robert Jay as *amicus curiae*.

MR JUSTICE SEDLEY, giving the judgment of the court, said that the critical fact was that the appellant for the offence of shoplifting, which constituted the breach of the suspended sentence, had been given a conditional discharge by the justices a form of disposal which had for many years not been deemed to be a conviction save for specified purposes.

In *R v Tarry* (1970) 54 Cr App R 322 it was held that an offender who had been given a conditional discharge for reoffending during the operative period of a suspended sentence could not be dealt with by activation of that sentence.

That that was not an oversight was made clear when the legislation was consolidated in the 1973 Act. Section 13 of that Act replaced

section 12 of the Criminal Justice Act 1948 in terms and in a location which produced the identical effect to that set out in *Tarry*.

It reproduced the rule that probation or discharge should not be deemed to be a conviction except for the purposes of the proceedings in which the order was made and of any subsequent proceedings "under the preceding provisions of this Act".

The preceding provisions included, as before, reoffending in breach of a probation order or a conditional discharge; and the provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 1967 for the making and activating of suspended sentences were reproduced as sections 22 to 24 with the result that they fell outside the classes of case in which a conditional discharge was to rank as a conviction.

It followed from the literal meaning and location of section 1C of the 1973 Act, as inserted, that an offence committed during the operational period of a suspended sentence and for which justices had given a conditional discharge created a conviction for the purposes of sections 23 and 25, reversing the effect of *Tarry*. But the question was whether Parliament ever intended to achieve that result.

Section 8 of the 1991 Act stood alone under the cross-head "Probation and community service orders". The section itself bore the shoulder-note "Probation orders".

The provisions of the section indicated an intention to alter the nature of probation orders and to make consequential adjustments to the 1973 Act for the purpose of maintaining intact the provisions relating to absolute and conditional discharges and their status as convictions.

But while the repeal of section 7 was made good by the enactment of section 1A and that of sections 8 and 9 by the enactment of section 1B, it was necessary to question whether effect was in fact given to subsections 8(2) and (3) and the expressed purpose of doing no

more than was necessary to remove offenders placed on probation from the ambit of section 13 as achieved by the total repeal (by Schedule 13) of the new section 13.

It was manifest that the means adopted by the provisions scheduled to the 1991 Act did not correspond with the end clearly posted by subsections 8(2) and (3). That end was the modest one of permitting an offence for which an offender had been absolutely or conditionally discharged to rank as a conviction for the purposes of sentencing for the breach of an antecedent conviction or discharge but for no other purpose.

That, by the use of the phrase "the following provisions of this Act", section 1C excluded, instead it appeared to have achieved the opposite result, that the crown court could claim jurisdiction where the offence for which a conditional discharge had been granted had been committed during the operational period of a suspended sentence. Neither result was the one intended, as was within the expressed intent of the body of the 1991 Act.

The policy of the legislation was readily discernible. By section 1A of the 1973 Act as now amended, echoing section 7(1) of the Act in its original form, a conditional discharge was to be deemed to be "a conviction" where "it is inexpedient to inflict punishment".

A suspended sentence, by contrast, was to be passed only where a custodial disposal, in principle a fine, was appropriate. That had always been the legislative policy but it was now added the restriction that such a sentence might be suspended only in exceptional circumstances (section 22(2) of the 1973 Act, as substituted by section 5(1) of the 1991 Act).

It was therefore logical to suppose that an offence committed during the operational period of a suspended sentence but, in the opinion of justices with a power of disposal, meriting a conditional discharge

instead of a penalty ought not to be able to bring about the activation of a suspended sentence of imprisonment.

A major element of the policy of the 1991 Act was to prevent the imposition of imprisonment for minor offences, even if repeated, but it was still necessary for a court, having imposed a conditional discharge, to have cognisance of a further offence constituting a breach of condition. None of that was achieved by the use of the word "following" in section 1C(1)(a).

All of it would have been achieved if the epithet "preceding" had been used.

Although, therefore, there was no ambiguity of language or obscurity of literal meaning in section 1C taken on its own such a word would enable the court to seek out the true meaning by other means (see *Pepper v Hart* (1993) AC 593). This was a situation in which loyalty to the literal wording of the statute would frustrate the plain legislative intent.

Moreover, loyalty to the literal wording of section 1C would involve a failure to recognise the inconsistency with section 8 of the 1991 Act. In such a situation the court was affirmatively required to give the enactment a "rectifying" interpretation.

Moreover, loyalty to the literal wording of section 1C would involve a failure to recognise the inconsistency with section 8 of the 1991 Act. In such a situation the court was affirmatively required to give the enactment a "rectifying" interpretation.

The proper resolution of the inconsistency, in their Lordships' judgment, was to give priority to what was both the express intention of section 8 and, more generally, the policy of the 1991 Act by treating section 1C(1)(a) as ending with the words "under the preceding provisions of this Act".

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor.

Recovering benefit from personal injury damages

Hassall v Secretary of State for Social Security
Pether v Same
Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Henry and Mr Justice Potts
[Judgment December 15]

The scheme for recouping social security benefits that was introduced by the Social Security Act 1989 entitled the Secretary of State for Social Security to recoup benefits paid to applicants out of the sums awarded to them as general damages in their personal injury actions.

Such recoupment resulted in the applicants being under-compensated for their injuries and as a matter of principle a claim for loss of non-recoupable benefit should have been claimed as damages by the applicants against the tortfeasors.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments dismissing appeals by applicants, Mr Alan Hassall and Mr Stewart Pether, from decisions by a social security commissioner, Mr J. J. Skinner, QC, that the secretary of state was entitled to payments of £7,000 and £1,668 respectively out of the general damages awarded to the applicants, being the amounts of post-accident benefits that had been paid to them.

Mr F. Gary Burrell for the applicants; Mr Philip Vallance, QC and Miss Margaret Bowron for the secretary of state.

LORD JUSTICE HENRY said that the appeals challenged the recoupment by the secretary of state of certain social security benefits paid to the applicants from sums due to them as damages for their personal injury actions brought by them.

The recoupment was found to have been authorised by the new statutory scheme for the recoupment of social security benefits introduced by section 22 of and Schedule 4 to the Social Security Act 1989, now in amended form in Part IV of the Social Security Administration Act 1992.

The tortfeasors were not represented, although insurers might have an interest in the reasoning by which the court's conclusion was reached.

Each applicant was unemployed at the time of his accident and in receipt of benefits. Each continued to receive approximately the same amount in benefit after the accident as he had before but on a different basis, then being in-

capable of working. Each settled his personal injury action on the basis that no claim could be made for loss of earnings during the time of incapacity because he would not have been able to find work even if fit. Thus the claims were solely for general damages for pain, suffering and loss of amenity.

What then happened could be illustrated by Mr Hassall's case. His claim was settled for £22,500. He had received post-accident benefits of £7,500 and that sum was recouped by the secretary of state, the tortfeasor paying £15,000 to Mr Hassall and £7,500 to the secretary of state.

It was that recoupment which was challenged, the matter being one purely of statutory construction. But the applicants contended that the result achieved by the recoupment was so unfair that the statute should be construed so as to avoid that result.

That unfairness was best illustrated by considering a claim for the same injuries by someone who neither claimed nor received any benefits nor made any loss of earnings claim in his action, say an unemployed millionaire. He would recover the full £22,500.

In a situation where there could be no question of double recovery, what justification could there be for a person who had to rely on accident-related benefits to tide him over until he recovered his damages recovering less damages than one who did not need to claim recoupable benefits because he could afford to wait?

The scheme bit on any compensation payment as defined by section 81(1) of the 1992 Act. The commissioner was not to make such a payment to the victim until the secretary of state had furnished him with a certificate of total benefit and he had deducted that sum from the payment and paid it to the secretary of state (section 82(1)).

The victim could challenge the certificate on the grounds *inter alia* that it included any benefit paid "otherwise than in consequence of the accident" (section 98(1)(b)).

Thus the question was whether these benefits were paid otherwise than in consequence of the accident. Clearly they were not. They were paid as a direct consequence of the accident. No other construction was possible.

That conclusion, adverse to the applicants, took one back to the question of fairness, as demonstrated by the unemployed mil-

lionaire example. Such unfairness stemmed not from the construction or the operation of Part IV of the 1992 Act but from the failure to claim in the original actions special damages in respect of what those men under the new statutory regime lost financially as a result of the accident.

On the factual assumption that they would have been unemployed over their whole recuperation period what they lost was their entitlement to non-recoupable benefits over that period.

Each claim would proceed on the following basis. The physical injuries sustained in the accident rendered the victim unfit and therefore no longer available for work.

The pecuniary loss to him consequent on those injuries was not loss of earnings, because he would not have been able to find a job, but the loss of non-recoupable benefits which ceased to be paid as a result of the accident because his injuries rendered him no longer available for work, and so his non-recoupable benefits were replaced by benefits recoupable because they were paid in consequence of the accident.

That conclusion was justified on principle and additionally received some support, albeit obiter and by analogy, from *Borriello v Felzowood Dock & Railway Co* (1989) 1 WLR 699.

The conclusion was that the applicants had been under-compensated but not because of the working of the statutory scheme but from the fact that in their cases no pecuniary loss claim, for loss of non-recoupable benefits, had been made.

That was a point on which the court had not had the benefit of adversarial argument: the secretary of state had no interest in disputing that such a claim would provide the answer in other cases.

The point lay on the fault line between damages and benefits and ideally should be decided in a case where all three interested parties, namely the victim, the compensator and the secretary of state were represented. But there could be no doubt that as a matter of principle on the facts postulated the loss of non-recoupable benefits could be claimed as damages.

Lord Justice Nourse and Mr Justice Potts agreed.

Solicitors: Alan Farnell & Co, Dinnington; Clark Willmott & Clarke, Yeovil; Solicitor, Department of Social Security.

Wide discretion in assessing child's special needs

Regina v Cumbria County Council, Ex parte B
Before Mr Justice Schiemann
[Judgment December 9]

A local education authority had the widest discretion to make a statement as to provision for a child's special educational needs and there was nothing irrational or unlawful in having categories of children whose intelligence quotient was too high or too low to allow them to be automatically made the subject of a statement by the authority.

Mr Justice Schiemann so stated in the Queen's Bench Division when dismissing an application for judicial review by B of a decision of Cumbria County Council of November 2, 1993 withdrawing a statement of special needs made on June 1, 1991 with effect from January 1, 1994.

Miss Elizabeth Appleby, QC and Mr Rosslyn Lee for B; Mr Thomas Hegarty, QC and Mr Ernest Ryder for the council.

MR JUSTICE SCHIEMANN said that it was common ground that the dyslexic child had special educational needs and that the local authority had reversed its decision itself to determine those needs and now left the decision to the child's school. It was also common ground that the authority was entitled to have a policy to guide its decision whether or not to make a statement under section 7 of the Education Act 1981 and that there was no statutory requirement for such a decision.

The local education authority had a policy of "statementing" children in various situations, for example children with blindness, deafness, mental handicap, low developmental (formerly intelligence) quotient and specified learning difficulties. There were particular policies of statementing children with specified learning difficulties who had a developmental quotient of under 70 or of over 85 and were behind their peers in literacy and numeracy.

Those two groups of children with learning difficulties were those for which the authority decided it should determine special educational provision. Where children came within the range of 70 to 85 in developmental quotient their needs were to be determined by their respective schools.

The authority used to have a

policy concerning statementing on the basis of literacy and numeracy which resembled the policy under which B was now assessed, but which was wider in that there was no minimum developmental quotient requirement. Those children who fell into the 70 to 85 range, B's group, were statemented.

Now those children fell into a different category. Many had learning difficulties but the authority did not statement them, leaving the determination of special educational provision to the school.

In his Lordship's judgment it was surprising that a child could so fall, but once there were a number of different routes into statementing and different requirements, a child could fail to enter. The authority had the widest discretion to statement a child with special educational needs.

In his Lordship's judgment, there was nothing irrational or unlawful in having categories of children whose developmental quotient was too high or too low to go easily through the doors that led to statementing. If the policy was not unlawful, then the precise level was a matter for the authority and was not easily subject to challenge in the courts.

Once it was accepted that the policy was lawful, B had to put forward facts to make the authority change its policy or to allow B to be made an exception. Following B's mother's representations, the authority had commissioned an educational psychologist's report.

In his Lordship's judgment there was nothing irrational in the authority's conclusion and nothing on the material to make it change or depart from its policy. The authority had not shut its ears to representations from B's mother.

It was perfectly fair to point out the authority's procedure. Its main task was to ascertain whether B fitted the new criteria rather than the question of the wisdom of those criteria.

The authority did not have to do more on the material before it. No compelling reasons for making B an exception had been put forward to the authority. The court could not be concerned with the wisdom or otherwise of the criteria. The application would be dismissed.

Solicitors: Burnetts, Carlisle; Mr Alan Francis, Carlisle.

Condition not applicable to unauthorised building

Handoll and Others v Warner Goodman Street (a Firm) and Others
Before Lord Justice McCowan, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Sir John May
[Judgment December 9]

A planning condition restricting occupancy to persons engaged in agriculture imposed on a permission for the erection of a building did not apply to a building which was not authorised by that permission.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing the appeal of the plaintiffs, Stephen Colin Handoll, Margaret Charlotte Cline Handoll and Muriel Hazel Suddick, against the decision of Mr Justice Mervyn Davies (1992) 66 P & C R 78, on a preliminary issue in a consolidated action between the plaintiffs and the fourth defendant, East Lindsey District Council, relating to a property built in 1978 on land in Sickenby, Lincolnshire, comprising a bungalow and out-buildings, and acquired by the plaintiffs by conveyance in 1984, which he found was built without compliance with planning permission and subject to an agricultural occupancy restriction.

Leave to appeal was granted. Mr John Howell, QC and Miss Joanne Wicks for the plaintiffs; Mr Graham Machin for the district council.

LORD JUSTICE MCCOWAN said that, following an application

for planning permission on the appropriate form, outline planning permission was granted by the council in October 1977, with subsequent approval of the planning authority required on some matters such as siting and design landscaping, and with an agricultural occupancy limitation.

When the approval was granted two months later, the bungalow was not placed on the location shown in the application plan or by the application form, and the evidence showed that it was about 90 feet west of the location approved by the council.

His Lordship, having set out sections 22(1), 23(1), 25, 27, 29(1)(a), 33(1)(a), 34(1), 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1976 and article 5 of the Town and Country Planning General Development Order (SI 1977 No 289), accepted Mr Howell's submission that the planning permission granted did not authorise the building covered, on a correct analysis, the works involved were not permitted and were unlawful.

His Lordship agreed with his submission that if a permission did not apply then the condition subject to which it was granted had no application, so that, as in the present case, the agricultural occupancy restriction, the property was not subject to the agricultural occupancy restriction.

Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Sir John May agreed. Solicitors: Royborne & Co, Boston; Browne Jacobson, Nottingham.

State for the Environment (1980) 41 P & C R 264, which was relied on by Mr Machin, since the Divisional Court there did not refer to *Noble v Armitage* (1962) 182 EG 309 or *Sheppard v Secretary of State for the Environment* (1974) EG 1167, 1173.

Furthermore, he submitted, works which did not comply with the permission, and any conditions to which the permission was subject, did not constitute the implementation or commencement of a planning permission, as the Court of Appeal subsequently made clear in *F. G. Whitley & Sons Co Ltd v Secretary of State for the Environment* (1992) 3 PLR 72, 80. His Lordship found that the authority fully supported that submission.

Mr Howell contended that what underlay the decision in *Kerrier* was the fear that if the court decided otherwise the occupier who built in non-compliance with the permission would benefit however, on a correct analysis, the occupier would be worse off since he would in fact be in breach of planning control.

His Lordship accepted the submissions of Mr Howell and held that *Kerrier* had been wrongly decided. Accordingly, the property was not subject to the agricultural occupancy restriction.

Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Sir John May agreed. Solicitors: Royborne & Co, Boston; Browne Jacobson, Nottingham.

Evidence excluded prematurely should be considered

Lambeth London Borough Council v Clarke and Others
Before Lord Justice Waite, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Nourse
[Judgment December 8]

Documentary evidence of an out-of-court assertion made by a witness who then stated from the witness box that it was untrue should not be excluded by the trial judge after the conclusion of the witness's oral evidence as being of minimal probative value. The excluded evidence would, if admitted, confront the court with an issue of credibility which could not be resolved until all the evidence was closed and the issues of fact were weighed by the judge with the assistance of the parties' closing speeches.

The Court of Appeal so stated allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Lambeth London Borough Council, from a decision made by Judge John Lloyd, QC, sitting as an official referee, whereby he ruled that the plaintiff be refused leave under sections 2 and 4 of the Civil Evidence Act 1968 to admit a document recording an out-of-court bribery assertion by a witness who admitted while giving oral evidence in court that he had made it but maintained that it was untrue.

The judge was not prepared to regard the document as a statement of the witness for the purposes of section 2 but he held that it qualified as a "record" under section 4. However, in his discretion, he declined to admit the record on the ground that it had minimal probative value.

Mr Stanley Brodie, QC and Mr Ian Mill for the plaintiff; Mr John Blackburn, QC and Miss Doreen Rawley for the third defendants.

LORD JUSTICE WAITE said that the plaintiffs claimed that the judge was wrong in his first holding under section 2 and in his third holding under the discretion, and the defendants cross-appealed on the ground that he was wrong in his second holding under section 4.

In his Lordship's judgment, the

judge was right to hold that the document was not a statement for section 2 purposes but was a record for section 4 purposes.

The fact that the judge did have a discretion to exclude the statement was not disputed. He directed himself to the question of whether he was entitled to have regard when exercising the discretion whether or not to grant leave was the potential probative value of the statement in question.

The judge in stating the grounds for excluding the record of the bribery assertion was expressing a finding that the bribery assertion had lost all probative value as a result of the witness's subsequent evidence from the witness box that it was untrue.

That was not a finding which, in his Lordship's judgment, the judge was entitled to make at that stage. It might be that he was misled by his consideration of *Morris v Stourport-on-Avon RDC* (1973) 1 WLR 1059 into the belief that it was his duty to attempt a definitive finding at that point as to the prospective weight to be accorded to the witness's statement in regard to the bribery assertion.

If so, he was mistaken. His duty was limited to an inquiry whether the statement had potential probative effect when the totality of the evidence came to be considered. That inquiry could only have led him to conclude that the evidence of the bribery assertion would be bound, if admitted, to confront the court with an acute issue of credibility; namely, which of the two statements, the one made out of court, or the one made on oath, was true?

That was not an issue which could possibly be resolved until the stage when all the evidence was closed and the issues of fact came to be weighed by the judge with the assistance of the parties' closing speeches. Nor could the issue be dismissed as too marginal or too trivial to have potential weight. It was an issue of the highest potential weight, going to the heart of a case involving allegations of dishonesty.

It would be wrong, therefore, at the present stage of proceedings

either to dismiss the bribery assertion as peripheral or to attempt any definitive judgment as to its prospective weight.

Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Nourse agreed. Solicitors: Mischoon de Reya; Herbert Smith.

Evidence of facial mapping by video superimposition

Regina v Clarke
Before Lord Justice Steyn, Mr Justice Mummery and Mr Justice Collins
[Judgment December 9]

Evidence of facial mapping by way of video superimposition was a species of real evidence to which no special rules applied. As with other evidence, if such evidence was not sufficiently intelligible to the jury without more, an expert could be called to give an explanation.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in dismissing an appeal by Bobby Lee Clarke against his conviction in August 1993 at Southwark Crown Court (Judge Owen Stead, QC, and a jury of robbery, having a firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence and having a firearm with intent to endanger life for which he received sentences of respectively eight, eight and six years imprisonment, all to run concurrently).

Mr Stephen Leslie, QC and Mr Julian Nourse, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Christopher Ball, QC and Miss Patricia Lynch for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE STEYN, giving the judgment of the court, said that a robbery which took place at Barclays Bank, Aveley in Essex in April 1992 was filmed by an

automatic still camera, which took a number of still photographs of the robber with different lenses.

Some were enlarged and sent to Dr Vanezis, a pathologist and Director of the Facial Identification Centre at Charing Cross Hospital, for comparison with police identification photographs of the appellant.

Dr Vanezis said in evidence that, as a result of his analysis, he had formed the opinion that the person in the bank photographs and the appellant were the same person.

Dr Rabey, the defence expert, said that he did not think there was sufficient evidence positively to identify any particular person, including the appellant, with the image of the robber.

The trial judge ruled that a video recording of Dr Vanezis' work using a new process called video superimposition could be shown to the jury. The technique involved photographs from the bank being transferred to high quality video tape.

The same was done with police identification photographs of the appellant. Each was blown up to about the same size and the machine was set to display both the head of the robber and the head of the suspect in exactly the same position. A line could then be moved horizontally or vertically so more of one face and less of the other would be seen.

Counsel for the appellant contended that the judge was wrong to admit that evidence. It should have been for the jury to decide from the photographs whether the appellant was the robber.

Their Lordships did not agree. There were no closed categories of evidence and it would be entirely wrong to deny to the law of evidence the advantages of new techniques.

As with fingerprint evidence, if it was not sufficiently intelligible to the jury without expert help, an expert could be called to testify.

That was not to say that such evidence could be flawed, it had to be carefully scrutinised. Counsel further argued, following *R v Turner* (1974) 60 Cr App R 80, that expert evidence should not have been admitted because it was unnecessary. The jury could see the photographs for themselves.

Their Lordships rejected that submission. This was clearly a case where comparison was not entirely straightforward.

It was therefore not right to say that expert evidence should not play a useful role in assisting the jury to answer the question of identification.

The probative value of the evidence depended on the reliability of the scientific techniques and that was a matter for debate.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Chelmsford.

European Law Report

Luxembourg

Direct effect on social security arrears

Johnson v Chief Adjudication Officer
(Case C-410/92)
Before G. C. Rodriguez Iglesias, President and Judges R. Joliet, F. A. Schockweiler, P. J. K. Kapteyn, G. F. Mancini, N. K. Kouris, J. C. Monnié, de Almeida, J. L. Murray and D. A. O. Edwards
Advocate General C. Gulmann
(Opinion June 1)
[Judgment December 6]

There was nothing in Community law to preclude the application to a claim based on the direct effect of Council Directive 79/7/EEC of a rule of national law which limited the period for which arrears of social security benefits could be claimed, even where the directive had not been properly transposed into national law within the prescribed period.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held on a reference by the Court of Appeal for a preliminary ruling under article 177 of the EEC Treaty.

The applicant, Mrs Elsie Rita Johnson, applied on August 17, 1987 for severe disablement allowance, a benefit provided for by the Health and Social Security Act 1984, but her application was refused.

In (Case C-31/90) *Johnson v Chief Adjudication Officer* (1993) QB 252 the Court of Justice had held, *inter alia*, that the provisions of English law applicable to the case had not properly implemented article 4 of Directive 79/7/EEC on the progressive im-

plementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in matters of social security (OJ 1979 L6, p24) within the period prescribed by the directive, which ended on December 22, 1984, and that in the circumstances article 4 could be relied on by an individual to have the national legislation set aside.

The applicant was subsequently granted severe disablement allowance with effect from August 16, 1986. Payments in respect of any period before that date were refused, on the basis of section 165A(2) of the Social Security Act 1975, as inserted by section 17 of the Social Security Act 1985, which provided: "... no person shall be entitled ... (c) to any other benefit ... in respect of any period more than 12 months before the date on which the claim is made."

On the applicant's appeal, the Court of Appeal asked the Court of Justice whether, having regard to (Case C-268/



FILM

A Chekhov staging in a rundown Broadway theatre gives Louis Malle material for *Vanya on 42nd Street*
OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday



BOOKS

A.S. Byatt offers fairy tales for the sophisticated palate in *The Djinn in the Nightingale's Eye*
IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Thursday



VIDEO

Love, revenge, death and flamenco in Carlos Saura's classic ballet-film version of Lorca's play, *Blood Wedding*
IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Saturday



OPERA

We'll meet in hell, Scarpi: Josephine Barstow sings the tempestuous title-role of *Tosca* in Leeds
OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Monday

ARTS
TUESDAY TO
FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

Benedict Nightingale recalls his uproarious encounter with an eccentric genius

A large gin and actor on the rocks

My runner in the name-dropping stakes has to be Ralph Richardson, though there are, I suppose, other possibilities. For instance, I can recall clambering through the hidden in-bards of Canterbury Cathedral with the Very Rev Hewlett Johnson. He was a white-haired, rather Trollopian figure inconspicuously known and frequently reviled as the Red Dean. He was also very kind to small boys.

That didn't just mean climbing up tiny, winding stone stairs. It meant crossing yawning chasms on timber beams and, though memory probably deceives me, edging along parapets before gracefully emerging at the top of the great building. From my stay with the Johnsons I date not only my fear of heights but perhaps also some of my night terrors, since I slept high in the ancient deanery, in a tiny attic near which my mother later claimed to have seen the ghost of a small, smiling clergyman. Nevertheless, I was sorry when her friendship with the Red Dean and his wife ended: owing, I think, to their insistence that the Americans were using germ warfare or poison gas in Korea.

Or maybe I should have chosen Richard Crossman, a large, ebullient figure who took me up when I was modestly toiling as the theatre critic of *The New Statesman*, which he then edited. I can recall him making me stop quite illegally as I drove him to his house near Banbury and unembarrassedly peeing in full view of what must have been some very surprised motorists.

My encounter with Ralph Richardson was more professional, and yet, Richardson being Richardson, not professional at all. The idea, to do an interview with him for *The New York Times*, was not one I wholly liked. Sir Ralph was always pleasant, always polite, but I knew that he had his own way of dealing with questions he found impertinent. "I don't know myself very well," he would reply. "I'll have to ask myself that one day, and if I tell myself, I'll let you know."

Indeed, Sir Ralph was himself not too keen on an interview, since he told me in a letter beforehand that he had a horror of tape recorders or "infernal machines", as he called them. In the end we agreed that I would rely on my notebook and memory, not a terribly good idea in either case, for I am absent-minded and anyway find it hard to read my own handwriting. So I was already in a pretty nervous state when I arrived at what turned out to be rather a grand house in Regents Park.

Nor did Richardson manage to put me at my ease when he appeared at the door, a great pink grampus in tweeds. That round face — once described, maybe by him, as a blend of pineapple and hot cross bun — looked worried.

The day I met...
RALPH RICHARDSON

We must talk upstairs, he said. But how were we to get there, by lift or on foot? The question, which was beginning to seem as important to our survival as finding the right way up Everest, was eventually settled in favour of the staircase. So up we trudged, to be waylaid in passing by Lady Richardson, who somewhat unnervingly said "behave yourself" to Sir Ralph and disappeared.

What did she mean? I got an inkling as we entered the drawing room. A weird indecisiveness again seized Sir Ralph. What should we drink? Gin or whisky or, "better still, gin and whisky"? There was, he assured me, nothing more pleasant than a mixture of red and white wine, so why shouldn't we extend the principle to spirits? This made me wary, because I had heard tell of earlier scribes weaving home doubly disoriented by the Richardson personality and the Richardson drinks cabinet. "Poor chap," was his epitaph on one such. "Couldn't hold his liquor!"

Pluckily, I opted for a large gin with a little water, a choice which I felt upped me in his estimation. He had served in the RNVR during the war, and knew a nautical tittle when he saw one. The trouble was, this launched him on a very long, very complicated anecdote about the Navy. The punchline was that a bomb fell or a ship blew up, I forget which, and the assembled officers all attributed the noise and the lurching to their gin-and-water. He laughed uproariously and I began to worry.

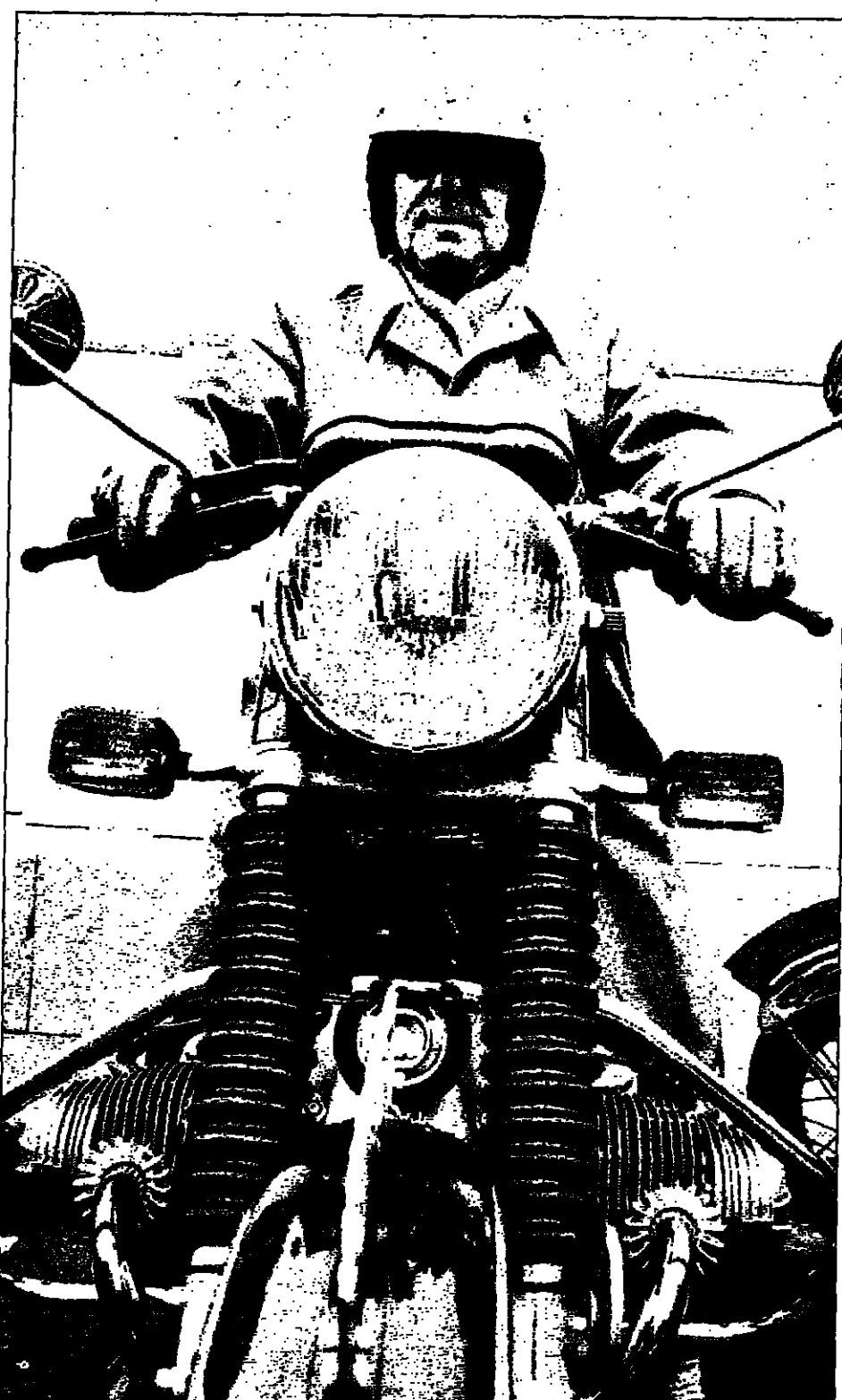
When was I going to get my interview? I took out my notebook, and put some questions to Sir Ralph, though with uneven results. I seem to recall him telling me that his favourite role was that of an arsonist in a film called *The Ghouls*, whose star was Boris Karloff. "I was a parson, and the lady of the house liked and trusted me, but I was getting together firewood all the time, to burn the place down, ha, ha, ha!" Was it my imagination, or did Richardson look a little wistfully at the red-hot bar of the heater beside him as he genially cried "I've never had a more enjoyable role."

I suppose he must have given me some relevant answers, for an article did eventually appear, but the answers were mostly buried in *The New York Times* archives. I do, however, remember him telling me that, when constructing a role, he always took care to work out the kind of trousers the character would wear and regularly drew on his own dreams. Funnily enough I believed him, especially in the second case, for there was often something odd and other-worldly about his acting.

He also compared acting itself with being a bull chasing a cow round a field ("you never quite catch the tail") and had some words of wisdom for beginners: "It's better than being a hangman now that the death penalty's been abolished, and it's very cheap. All you need is a stick of make-up. Difficult to think of a career where you need less."

At the time, he was about to play Tarzan, grandfather in the movie *Greystoke* — "I've got this bloody great castle and nobody to leave it to, that's the problem" — and wondering whether or not to play the part of a man who hallucinates a murder and thinks it real in Eduardo de Filippo's *Inner Voices*. Retirement was not on the agenda, because, as he explained, one knew less as one grew older and therefore one had more to learn. Besides, he added, he might drop dead at any moment, possibly then and there, while he was getting me another drink.

By now the combination of gin and actor (Ralph fizzes Richardson rocket) must have been having its effect, because I proceeded to fail myself and posterity both as a man and as a writer. He told me that, while he didn't expect to survive his death, he could remember having existed before his birth. But what were his memories of Heaven, the womb, or the person whose reincarnation he perhaps was? He would probably have produced some glorious evasion in reply, but I have always regretted not asking.



Sir Ralph Richardson: he had his own way of dealing with impertinent questions

We were finished, and not finished, because Richardson had a question for me on the doorstep. Who did I want to kill? he asked. I am probably on some people's enemies list, but I don't myself have much of a one, so I demurred. "Come on," he continued, "everybody wants to kill somebody." It emerged that his chosen victim was his own admirable biographer, Garry O'Connor. He had intimated that Richardson's terminally ill first wife, who had been found throttled by a scarf drooped over a bedpost, might have committed suicide, and that struck him as intolerable.

I had hoped to meet some of Richardson's furry or feathered friends: the white mouse he released when he wanted to alarm actresses, the ferret he supposedly washed in soapsuds on Saturday nights, the parrot he sometimes carried on his shoulder when tooling round town on his motorbike. It was not to be. I had a brief phone conversation with him ("Nightingale, Benedict? This is Richardson, Ralph") about the deadline for my piece, saw him give what was to be his last performance in *Inner Voices* at the National, and then found myself writing an obituary about him, again for *The New York Times*.

I have done a zillion interviews, but never has one left me so teased and pleased. Whatever I did or didn't write as a result, I continue to regard my encounter with Richardson as a huge success. Peter Hall once called him the quirkiest, most experimental of the great actors. I saw the quirks at close quarters and was, in a way, one of his experiments.

Tomorrow: How John Russell Taylor met Alfred Hitchcock

Opera House in San Francisco where the charter was signed will include a new work by Christopher Bruce, Ramon's artistic director, to music by Michael Nyman. The festival also includes the Kirov, Bolshoi and Paris Opera Ballets.

IN APRIL Janet Jackson will bring her highly-praised new stage show to Britain. Her first shows here since 1990 will be at the Sheffield Arena (April 4), Birmingham NEC (7) and Wembley Arena (19, 20). Her current album, *Janet*, has already given her six Top 20 hits here.

GOING in to bat for Britain at the international dance festival celebrating the 50th anniversary of the UN Charter next May will be Rambert Dance Company. The festival, at the War Memorial

female lead opposite Michael Gambon in the new David Hare play, *Skyline*, directed by Richard Eyre and opening at the National in May.

TELEVISION actress Amanda Donohoe, currently winning acclaim in America for her performance in *The Madness of King George*, is the latest British performer to be planning a Broadway debut. If current negotiations

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only
Some seats available
Seats at all prices

THE RIVALS Richard Cullen's *Requiem for a Dream* from Clichester, Patricia Routledge's splendidly wild Mrs Malaprop live a lace-encrusted whirlwind. Unrated season. Albany, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-857 1151) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs and Sat 3pm. Until Jan 14.

THE THREEPENNY OPERA Tom Hollander sings Macbeth as Kurt Weill's opera. Words by the team of writers customarily known as "Benck Brach". Phyllis Lloyd's inventive revival. West End. Albany, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-857 1151) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs and Sat 3pm. Until Jan 14.

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THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only
Some seats available
Seats at all prices

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NEW RELEASES

DE THE MIGHTY DUCKS (U) Side adventures of America's ice hockey team in the Junior Goodwill Games. With Emilio Estevez. Director, Sam Weisman. Orion. Mezzanine (0426-915 683) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3333) Warner West End (071-439 4343)

THE SPECIALIST (15) Sharon Stone lives as a sex addict. Sylvester Stallone to avenge her perjury, murder. This is an empty conceit that wastes its stars. With James Woods, Eric Roberts, Rod Taylor. Director, Luis Llosa. MGM. Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Trocadero (071-434 0031) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3333)

THE CLIENT (15) Mediocre version of John Grisham's thriller about a boy in jeopardy. With Susan Sarandon, Tommy Lee Jones and Brad Pitt. MGM. Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Warner (071-437 4343)

DEAR DIARY (15) Delightful film journal from Italian actor-director Nanni Moretti. Caron West (071-568 1723) Renair (071-437 8462)

FOREST GUMP (15) Endearing if indulgent ode to the post-war America, a film ideal for baby boomers.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where indicated with the symbol + on release across the country

THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS (PG) The King of Halloween tries to take over Christmas. Technically brilliant puppet fantasy conceived by Tim Burton, directed by Henry Selick. Barriemore (071-438 8891) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3333)

PRINCESS CARABOO (PG) Any amusing historical diversion, with Phoebe Cates as the mysterious girl believed to be a Fairies princess. With Jim Broadbent, John Lithgow, Stephen Rea, Wendy Hughes. Director, Michael Austin. MGM. Trocadero (071-434 0031) Warner (071-437 4343)

THREE COLOURS: RED (15) Kieslowski's compelling film about crossing lives, a majestic climax to the trilogy. With Irene Jacob and Jean-Louis Trintignant. Curzon. Mayfair (071-369 1723) Phoenix (061-853 2333) Renair (071-837 8402)

TO LIVE (15) Simple, enthralling family epic from leading Chinese director Zhang Yimou. With Gong Li, Gong Li. Curzon. Phoenix (071-369 1723)

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We would like to wish you all a big thank you for delivering our newspapers on Boxing Day, and throughout the year. We greatly appreciate your efforts and as a token of our thanks we've teamed up with

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to offer 8 lucky paperboys & 8 lucky papergirls the chance to win a super new Halfords bicycle.

All you have to do is deliver papers on Boxing Day and get your newsagent to enter your name in the big Prize Draw - Good Luck!

NO SCROOGE-like tendencies in the Pink Floyd camp. Dave Gilmour, Nick Mason and Rick Wright have announced that they are to donate more than \$2 million to the charity, to fund their 14-night residency at Earls Court to 13 British charities, among them Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital.

TELEVISION actress Amanda Donohoe, currently winning acclaim in America for her performance in *The Madness of King George*, is the latest British performer to be planning a Broadway debut. If current negotiations

Pink generosity

OVERTURES

work out, she will join Tom Courtenay and James Fox in a new production of every-one's favourite play of the moment, *Uncle Vanya*, opening in February at the Circle in the Square. Brahmam Murray, of the Royal Exchange in Manchester, is to direct.

Meanwhile, it looks as if Lia Williams — David Suchet's recent co-star in the West End *Oleanna* — may play the

female lead opposite Michael Gambon in the new David Hare play, *Skyline*, directed by Richard Eyre and opening at the National in May.

GOING in to bat for Britain at the international dance festival celebrating the 50th anniversary of the UN Charter next May will be Rambert Dance Company. The festival, at the War Memorial

Opera House in San Francisco where the charter was signed will include a new work by Christopher Bruce, Ramon's artistic director, to music by Michael Nyman. The festival also includes the Kirov, Bolshoi and Paris Opera Ballets.

IN APRIL Janet Jackson will bring her highly-praised new stage show to Britain. Her first shows here since 1990 will be at the Sheffield Arena (April 4), Birmingham NEC (7) and Wembley Arena (19, 20). Her current album, *Janet*, has already given her six Top 20 hits here.

Start collecting tokens today — and enter a competition that allows you to welcome the new century twice

The biggest party in history

When the clocks strike midnight on New Year's Eve in 1999, the world will be celebrating an event that comes only once in every 1,000 years.

The arrival of the millennium is certain to be heralded by some of the greatest, noisiest, most enjoyable parties of all time. Where would you like to be celebrating at the beginning of the year 2000?

The Times is offering the opportunity to take part in some of the finest festivities — and the chance to win one of three great prizes in our millennium competition. The first prize is a 28-day world air cruise for two to Fiji and the Cook Islands, which would cost party-goers £64,000 to book in 1999. Due to the time zone, the winners will enjoy the first New Year 2000 party in the world and then look forward to doing it all over again on the next night by flying across the International Date Line to the Cook Islands.

The grand prize winner and a partner will take up two of the 70 places reserved exclusively on the trip for readers of *The Times* and will spend Christmas 1999 in Sydney before joining a series of gala parties in Fiji and the Cook Islands.

The second prize winner receives a ten-day holiday worth up to £7,000 for two in Fiji, with all flights, accommodation and meals provided. The third prizewinner may choose two tickets to any of the other party venues also on offer to readers (see below).

Even if you do not win a prize, you can still take part in the biggest party in history by booking the Fiji and Cook Islands trip separately or taking advantage of our selection of luxury venues around the world. A booking form for the world air cruise trip and the ten-day Fiji and Cook Islands trip appears below.

The parties are the brainchild of The Millennium Foundation, a non-profit-making registered charity which is throwing world-wide fund raising parties, from Glasgow to the Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg and from Hong Kong to Dallas.

In St Petersburg, for instance, the money will help to restore the Hermitage

and fund the Kirov Ballet.

First Prize (also available to readers at £21,000 per person). A month-long trip to Fiji and the Cook Islands starts with a pre-departure cocktail party and dinner and accommodation at the Warwick Hilton. Then, three nights at the Marriott hotel in Dubai with a half-day guided tour of the city, a cocktail cruise aboard a dhow, dinner at the Dubai Yacht Club, a full-day desert safari and lunch at Hatta Fort.

Your next stop is a three-night stay at the Regent Hotel, Chang Mai, Thailand, with

party and a champagne breakfast.

The New Year will see you spending three nights at the Westin La Paloma Hotel, Tucson, Arizona, with a poolside buffet lunch and dinner at the exclusive Ranchers' Club of Arizona. Included is a tour to the Desert Museum and Old Tucson Studios, including lunch, and dinner at the Savoy Opera House. Then comes an early-morning hot air balloon flight and a drive into the Sonoran Desert followed by cocktails and dinner.

Heading home towards you will spend two nights at the

Park Hyatt Hotel, Washington. The stay includes dinner at the Georgetown Club, a half-day tour of Washington, a gala dinner at the Capitol, with cocktails, wine and entertainment, and a half-day tour to Mount Vernon or the Smithsonian Institution. The holiday includes all airport departure taxes, where applicable. All taxes and service charges, gratuities to guides, drivers and other staff.

The services of a consultant physician and qualified nursing staff are available throughout, as are the services of the air cruise director and two staff. There is also comprehensive travel insurance and membership of the Millennium Travel Club.

Second Prize (also available to readers at £4,400 per person). This ten-day trip to Fiji includes return economy-class flights between London and Nadi, and Nadi and Rarotonga. Eight nights will be spent in an ocean-view room at the Fiji Sheraton Hotel and one night at the Rarotongan Resort Hotel, in the Cook Islands. There will be a gala New Year's Eve party in Fiji and then, across the date line, a New Year's Eve party in Rarotonga followed by a day's sightseeing tour of Fiji by boat and helicopter.

Third Prize. A one-week trip for two including all flights and accommodation to be chosen from one of the Millennium celebration sites below.

HOW TO ENTER

The competition starts today and continues until January 14. We will be printing a token a day and a daily question.

Terms and Conditions

1. Readers may enter by collecting the 18 differently numbered tokens which appear in *The Times* between December 26 and January 14, 1995, and sending them together with the answers to the 18 questions in the competition address below the closing date of January 31, 1995.

2. All bookings for the holidays must be made by post directly with Kaloa Limited, Cragmar Chambers, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands. Reader's contracts are made with Kaloa Limited subject to the relevant booking conditions set out in its brochure. Times Newspapers Limited acts only as a promoter of this offer.

3. The offer is subject to availability and is not valid in conjunction with any other offer or concessionary fare.

4. Payments must be made by cheque or by standing order.

5. The prices quoted include all airport departure taxes (where applicable), all taxes and service charges, gratuities to guides, drivers and other staff. The services of a consultant physician and qualified nursing staff throughout the trip. Services of the air cruise director, plus two staff. Comprehensive travel insurance and membership of the Millennium Travel Club.

6. Quoted prices exclude all items of a personal nature, such as telephone calls and drinks, as well as the costs of obtaining visas and payment of any additional government taxes which may come into force.

7. On receipt of monies, applicants will receive a certificate confirming their place on the particular trip. The certificate is transferable and should be kept in a safe place. Only certificates held by the holder can be used to book a place on a trip.

8. If you are unable to travel, you may assign your certificate to another person. You must advise Kaloa Limited in writing immediately prior to transfer. You may sell your place on the trip or use it as a gift.

9. Where required, visas and vaccinations are the responsibility of the applicant.

10. Kaloa Limited reserves the right to change elements of the holiday but will endeavour to provide services of a comparable or better standard.

11. Times Newspapers Limited cannot be responsible for any disagreement a client may have with Kaloa Limited or other third party suppliers, and accepts no liability for any loss or injury suffered by any reader. Any dispute must be settled directly with Kaloa Limited.

12. Kaloa Limited will accept liability for death or injury which may arise as a direct result of its negligence and/or breach of its contractual duty to exercise care in making arrangements for you, including any acts or omissions by its agents or employees.

13. Times Newspapers Limited and Kaloa Limited are not liable for lost tokens or applications not received. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt.



Exotic Fiji: winners will celebrate the first New Year's Eve party here and welcome the year 2000 with champagne

Collect all 18 tokens and send them with your answers to all 18 questions and tell us, on a separate piece of paper, in not more than 15 words why you would like to join in the fun. Send your entry to: *The Times Millennium 2000 Competition*, 5 Britons Court, London EC3B 6NG. Closing date January 31, 1995. Normal Times competition rules apply.

Even if you are not taking part in the competition, you can

still join in the fun by booking one of the holidays at the locations listed below. Over the coming weeks we will be bringing you more information on what is on offer. Examples include a one-week stay in Auckland at the Regent, New Zealand's leading hotel, just a block from famous Waitemata Harbour in downtown Auckland's business and shopping district. The hotel offers spacious rooms, a rooftop pool and fitness centre, as

well as public areas recently refurbished. The cost of the stay, including all flights, accommodation, meals and travel insurance is £2,250 per person, based on two people sharing.

Why not consider a party at the Beverly Hills Wilshire Hotel in Los Angeles? The Italian-style baroque stonework and Aubusson tapestries, blended with California light and space, are the marks of this

hotel, a Beverly Hills legend restored to its original 1926 grandeur at the crossroads of Rodeo Drive and Wilshire Boulevard. It is only a short stroll to some of the finest shops in the world. Facilities include: 295 oversized rooms, including 48 suites, a sumptuous dining room, an elegant lobby lounge, extensive health club and full service spa, with sauna, whirlpool, massage and an Italian villa-styled pool.

Your questions answered

Is the quoted cost all I have to pay?

Yes. By offering this holiday for sale so far in advance, you are able to benefit by paying less than if you were to book nearer the time. The price you pay is guaranteed at the time you book, and there will be no surcharges except that Kaloa Limited reserves the right to charge additional taxes imposed by any government applicable to a trip. The only extra cost is for items of a personal nature, such as telephone calls, room service and drinks except where specified.

Is my money safe?

Yes. Your money will be held in a special trust fund.

What happens if my circumstances change and I or my partner am unable to go on the trip?

On receipt of your payment you will receive a certificate guaranteeing your place(s) on your chosen trip. If you are unable to travel you may assign your certificate to another person.

You must, however, advise Kaloa Limited in writing immediately prior to transfer. This means that you may sell your place on the trip.

With 1999 still five years away, how can I be guaranteed that the holiday I apply for now will be the one I will receive?

It is possible that some elements of your chosen holiday will change between now and 1999. However you will receive regular updates to keep you informed. If it is necessary to modify your travel arrangements everything possible will be done to provide services of a comparable or better standard.

How to book

Printed below is a booking form for the World Air Cruise and the Fiji and Cook Islands holidays. A booking form for the other destinations available will appear over the next three weeks. No tokens are required to book your holiday. Simply complete the relevant booking form and send it with a cheque for the correct amount to: Millennium 2000 Limited, Freepost GW 7623, Glasgow G3

A library is thought in cold storage.

Herbert Samuel

Every week *The Times Literary Supplement's* reviews and essays offer debate, opinion and argument from writers of the calibre of David

Starkie, Marina Warner and George Steiner. Rediscover thought. Break the ice and buy a copy this week.

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Millennium 2000 Parties

Location	Event	Price per person (per person)
Auckland	Regent Hotel	£2,250
Beverly Hills	Beverly Hills Wilshire Hotel	£2,250
Buenos Aires	Four Seasons Hotel	£2,250
Chicago	Marriott Hotel	£2,250
Dallas	Four Seasons Hotel	£2,250
London	Four Seasons Hotel	£2,250
Los Angeles	Beverly Hills Wilshire Hotel	£2,250
Manama	Four Seasons Hotel	£2,250
Manila	Four Seasons Hotel	£2,250
Paris	Four Seasons Hotel	£2,250
San Francisco	Four Seasons Hotel	£2,250
Seattle	Four Seasons Hotel	£2,250
Shanghai	Four Seasons Hotel	£2,250
Singapore	Four Seasons Hotel	£2,250
Tokyo	Four Seasons Hotel	£2,250
Washington	Four Seasons Hotel	£2,250
Wellington	Four Seasons Hotel	£2,250
Winnipeg	Four Seasons Hotel	£2,250
Zurich	Four Seasons Hotel	£2,250



Dance in Fiji — then cross the International Date Line

Millennium 2000 Booking Form

World Air Cruise and Fiji and Cook Islands holidays
In order to secure your place(s) on the World Air Cruise or the Fiji and Cook Islands holiday this form should be completed in full.

Title	Surname	First Names	Date of Birth	Room Type*

* Please indicate whether you would like a twin, double or single room

The price of this holiday is £21,000 per person sharing a twin or double room
If single occupancy of a room is required, the price of the holiday is £24,500 per person.

Twin/Double Rooms: _____ guests at £21,000 each
Single Rooms: _____ guests at £24,500 each

Total amount enclosed £ _____ (please make cheques payable to Kaloa Ltd)

Fiji and the Cook Islands

The price of this holiday is £4,400 per person sharing a twin or double room and based at the Sheraton Hotel in Fiji and the Rarotongan Resort in the Cook Islands.

If single occupancy of a room is required, the price of the holiday is £5,275 per person.

A limited number of rooms are available at the Regent of Fiji on a first come first served basis. Using this accommodation, the price per person in a twin or double room is £4,700.

If single occupancy of a room at the Regent is required, the price of the holiday is £5,875.

Sheraton Hotel Twin/Double rooms: _____ guests at £4,400 each
Sheraton Hotel Single Rooms: _____ guests at £5,275 each
Regent Hotel Twin/Double Rooms: _____ guests at £4,700 each
Regent Hotel Single Rooms: _____ guests at £5,875 each

Total amount enclosed £ _____ (please make cheques payable to Kaloa Ltd)

Declaration

I agree on behalf of all persons on this Booking Form to accept the booking conditions as supplied and warrant that I have the authority of all persons named on the Booking Form to make the booking subject to these conditions. I am over 18 years of age.

Signature: _____
Name (please print): _____
Date: _____
Day Telephone: _____
Evening telephone: _____

Send form and remittance to: Millennium 2000 Ltd, Freepost GW 7623, Glasgow G3 7BR

TOKEN 1



Question 1
What is the capital of Fiji?

هلذا من الالاص

Seasonal bookings bring cheer to Disney

By Jon Aspinworth

A RUSH of Christmas bookings has brought some welcome festive cheer to Disneyland Paris. Hotels at the theme park are fully booked on some days over the holiday season. Visitor numbers, which have risen steadily since the autumn, are reported to be strongly up on the same time last year.

The trend is reflected in buoyant seasonal demand at Center Parcs, owned by Scottish & Newcastle, which reports strong bookings at its 14 villages in the UK and mainland Europe. Sherwood Forest, Elveden Forest and Longleat Forest in the UK are fully booked until early January, with similar demand reported in Belgium, France and The Netherlands.

Strong attendance at Disneyland Paris will come as a relief to shareholders in Euro Disney, the quoted holding company, and appease the consortium of banks that agreed a £1.3 billion rescue refinancing earlier this year. Lower entrance fees and new attractions are likely to underpin the recovery in 1995.

Entrance fees are being reduced by more than 20 per cent from April 1. A major boost is expected in June with the opening of Space Mountain, a \$100 million high-tech roller-coaster ride that has proved immensely popular at other Disney theme parks.

Space Mountain could boost visitor attendance by between 200,000 and 400,000 a year, based on experience at other sites.

Space Mountain is largely being built as a panic measure to make up for the lack of exciting rides. The price of food and accommodation has been cut, and seasonal pricing has been introduced to even out attendance.

Confused marketing has not helped. For much of 1994, the theme park promoted itself as EuroDisneyland. Now it has decided to call itself Disneyland Paris.

Shareholders can only hope for the best. The shares, which opened at 887p when Euro Disney went public in the autumn of 1989, have been heading one way for months. They had collapsed to below 350p in January, when closure was a distinct possibility, and went on to hit an all-time low of 79p on October 25. They closed at 123p on Friday.

Today sees the first airing of a new advertising campaign by Saatchi & Saatchi aimed at persuading British holidaymakers to visit Disney resorts in America. The campaign runs until February. Saatchi won the £5 million Disney account in November.



The number of people visiting Disneyland Paris has risen steadily since the autumn and is reported to be strongly up on this time last year

Fraud alert as stores re-open for the sales

By Robert Miller

ANTI-FRAUD centres will be on full alert today as Britain's stores open their doors for the post-Christmas sales. The holiday period is one of the most active for fraudsters who last year cost plastic-card providers £130 million.

Barclaycard, Europe's largest credit card issuer with more than 13 million cardholders, keeps its fraud detection unit in Northampton fully operational round the clock every day of the year.

Michael Richards, head of the fraud operation at Barclays Bank, says the unit expects to "pick-up" about 100 cards today. He says: "We have to maintain a 24-hour watch because fraud is so international these days and a lot of fraudsters do not observe Christmas." A favourite time for criminals to use stolen cards is in the afternoon when shops are crowded and staff under pressure. Over the Christmas period, card issuers expect to lose about £10 million.

At the heart of the Barclays operation is a new £2 million system that will analyse a potentially high-risk transaction such as gold, jewellery or

expensive electrical equipment within two tenths of a second. In the same timeframe, the system will also analyse the normal spending pattern of the customer. If the proposed purchase appears to be unusual, further checks are made, possibly at the retail outlet to verify that the cardholder is genuine. The Fraud 2000 artificial intelligence system is expected to pick up 25 instances of fraud a day.

Barclays expects about 65,000 cards to be lost or stolen over the Christmas period. As well as the bank's own fraud centre, Barclays is working with plainclothes police officers deployed to detect fraudulent activity in shopping malls and town centres. A number of undercover police operations are being directly linked to the Barclays fraud referral unit on a 24-hour hotline.

One area of fraud where card issuers have noticed an alarming increase is that of counterfeit cards. Richard Tyson-Davies of the Association for Payment Clearing Services (APACS), which represents the banks and build-

ing societies that issue plastic cards, says: "Professional criminals are now spending big money to exploit this growing area of fraud. We are still looking to produce the so-called secure card that makes it impossible to counterfeit. We are most likely to produce a card which uses a chip to confirm that the card and the user are both genuine."

Card providers are also checking more and more transactions. At the moment, about 25 per cent of the UK's 5 million daily card transactions are subject to authorisation. This figure is expected to reach nearly 60 per cent by the end of 1996.

Mr Tyson-Davies says: "To a very large extent, we rely on card-users and shop staff in our fight against fraud. Don't relax your guard when you are shopping because there are plenty of pickpockets about just waiting for the chance to steal your card. And if your card is lost or stolen report it immediately. We find that there is often a time lapse before the loss is reported and, by then, an average of £250 has been spent."

Supermarkets plan to reward loyal shoppers

By Neil Bennett, Deputy Business Editor

THE powerful supermarket chains are developing new weapons to help them in their competitive battle for market share. According to the head of Britain's largest market research organisation, Next year, he predicts, many will introduce technology-driven savings schemes designed to ensure the loyalty of their customers.

Tony Cowling, head of Taylor Nelson AGB, says that there will be no easing off in the competition between the large supermarket groups and the discount chains in 1995. In the coming year, the supermarkets will continue to try to claw back the discounts they are offering, on value brands by selling premium items. But Mr Cowling forecasts that spending in supermarkets will still be restrained by the lack of any feeling of prosperity among customers.

As a result, the drive for customer loyalty will become one of the main features of 1995 in the food retailing industry. "Loyalty is an important trend and one the supermarkets are going to work hard on."

Promotions will include saver cards, which will give customers larger discounts the more they use a store.

Asda is well ahead in this method of marketing through its association with Catalina, the sales promotion organisation. This uses a system that scans the barcodes of the products a shopper buys and then prints a series of money-off vouchers to be used next time.

Information technology like this can be used to create a tailor-made package of discounts and offers for each shopper, based on what they normally put in their basket. This will encourage them to shop more often and buy more luxury goods.

The use of loyalty bonuses will be the latest round in a battle that has seen the traditional supermarkets come under pressure from the discount chains. In the past year, however, Taylor Nelson AGB has seen the market share of the discounters stabilise at 14 per cent, as the mainstream supermarkets introduced cheaper own-brand ranges.

In spite of this activity, Mr Cowling said that overall spending in supermarkets has fallen by 1.2 per cent in 1994. "Overall expenditure should continue to fall in 1995. The discounting will make it harder for retailers to get back to where they were," he said.

Banking on a Christmas phone call

Branches may be closed but it's business as usual. Sara McConnell investigates

It was business as usual yesterday as banks fielded thousands of telephone calls from customers wanting to pay bills or find out their bank balance.

Telephone banking services do not shut down over the traditionally quiet Christmas and New Year period, and this year more customers than ever before have had and will have access to their accounts over the holiday.

For the first time, customers of several major banks have been able to transact business over the telephone while their high street branch remains firmly closed.

This year has seen an explosion in telephone banking services as banks abandoned their initial disdain and decided there was significant customer demand. Barclays and TSB have both launched services this year, and even Lloyds, the sniffliest of them all, is conducting a pilot scheme and will probably launch next year. But so far, only Bank of Scotland has copied First Direct, the telephone banking arm of the Midland, and launched its own separate direct banking arm, Banking Direct.

Both offer 24-hour, seven-days-a-week banking with a human voice rather than a computer on the other end of the line. First Direct, the longest established telephone banking service, had a busy run-up to Christmas. It expected up to 700 calls on Christmas Day, mostly from people wanting to find out their balance or details of recent transactions or report lost or stolen cards.

On a normal day, it would expect about 20,000 calls. Every year brings a rush of calls from people planning to set off on holiday today, asking for increased credit card limits, wanting to arrange travel insurance or paying bills that fall due while they are away.

But on past experience, the bank believes its busiest day will be January 3, after the long New Year holiday. David Hollely, First Direct's customer services manager, said: "That is

when a lot of people go back to work and normal life starts again."

NatWest agrees that this is when people "start getting over their financial hangovers". Requests for overdrafts and personal loans from customers of its two telephone banking services, ActionLine and PrimeLine, rose by 10 per cent after last Christmas, and NatWest believes the increase will be about the same this year. It was expecting about 2,500 calls on Christmas Day itself to its ActionLine tonepad-operated telephone banking system, similar to last year.

It was planning to have three staff on duty to answer calls to the PrimeLine service between 9am and 5pm on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. They were not overworked if last year was anything to go by — then, they received only three calls.

Banks that launched telephone banking services this year for the first time are having to guess how many customers will actually pick up a telephone over the Christmas holiday.

Ian Lewis, senior manager at Banking Direct, said: "We don't quite know what to expect. We are staffed up as normal over Christmas and the New Year and open 24 hours a day, seven days a week." The bank has, however, seen a big take-up in its recent offer to mortgage customers of an unsecured loan of up to £5,000 with an annual rate of 13.6 per cent. Mr Lewis expects to see continuing demand for this over the holiday.

TSB, which just piped Barclays to the post with its launch of TSB PhoneBank in October, said it expected about 2,000 calls between December 23 and today. Normally it gets about 2,000 calls a day. PhoneBank is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and is staffed. But unlike First Direct and Banking Direct, its customers are existing customers of TSB's branch network.

Barclays is expecting 3,000 calls in the week between Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, but thought that fewer than 50 of these would be on Christmas Day.

Ross Tieman looks at the Belfast planemaker's plans to double sales

Short Brothers aims to fly higher

SHORT BROTHERS, the Belfast aerospace company, is aiming to double sales to £800 million a year by 1998 after investing £200 million to upgrade its facilities. Several hundred temporary workers are expected to be recruited in 1995 to cope with increasing volumes of work on wings for Fokker jetliners and new aircraft programmes.

Sales have doubled to £400 million a year since the company, Britain's oldest planemaker, was sold by the Government to Bombardier of Canada in 1989. With 10,000 employees, including an expanding aviation services division, Short Brothers is already Belfast's biggest manufacturing employer, accounting for 10 per cent of GDP in Northern Ireland.

Plans for further output increases in

the company's financial year, starting in February, have been drawn up in spite of a slide in profits during the current year. Pre-tax profits for the year to end-January are expected to be £25 million to £30 million, down from a record £33 million in the year to January 1994. Profitability has been hit by rationalisation of the missile business, which halved its workforce to 550 after development of the Starstreak ground-to-air missile was completed and export orders proved slower to materialise than expected.

But with about £250 million of unused tax losses still available, and the lowest cost aerospace facilities in Europe, Roy McNulty, the president, believes Short Brothers is well placed for growth. "This year has been a little bit of a struggle," he said. "But

we can see the market beginning to pick up for aircraft of 70 to 100 seats." Short Brothers is a risk-sharing partner on the world's most successful regional jet programme, the Fokker jetliner. Identical wing sets costing £2 million apiece are built in Belfast for the Fokker 100 twin-jet and its smaller derivative, the Fokker 70.

Output of the Fokker jets, which have been outselling the British Aerospace RJ series by about two to one, is expected to increase to about 40 next year. At the same time, Short Brothers should benefit from contracts to provide sub-assemblies for a new business jet, the Global Express, and the Canadian regional jet, assembled by its Canadian parent.

The Belfast plant is also seeing a rapid increase in sales of nacelles for

the Rolls-Royce Trent series of engines, which has been expanded to equip the Airbus A330 and Boeing 777.

And if the Government commits to the development of a new pan-European military transport, the Future Large Aircraft, at the end of next year, Short Brothers should benefit from a contract to supply components equal to about 2 per cent of a programme, which is expected to exceed 300 aircraft.

Mr McNulty said that Short Brothers was pleased with progress at Airwork, the military aircraft maintenance firm bought last year.

With Belfast Harbour Airport, owned by Short Brothers, now handling 1.2 million customers a year, the company sees aviation services as a strong potential growth area.

New car market 'set to grow'

By Our City Staff

THE chairman of Lex Service, Britain's largest car dealer, says the market for new cars could break the 2 million level next year, for the first time since the recession, as the company car sector continues to boom. But he says that personal buyers are still being deterred because of a lack of disposable income.

Sir Trevor Chinn said that the tax increases earlier this year were the main cause for the poor private car market. But he still expects the overall market to grow next year from this year's 1.9 million sales.

He added: "If I had to bet, it would be for 1.97 million sales. But it is possible we will see 2 million because the basic economy is strong. The big question mark is the private market, but I think it will improve as the year goes on."



Sir Trevor Chinn, of Lex, with the new Hyundai Accent

Sir Trevor attacked the Government's plans to reduce the road-building programme. "The country's infrastructure is going to deteriorate. People are going to buy cars and have a tougher time using them. What is so terrible about the vast majority of the electorate

wanting to use their cars?" Lex is launching a model from Hyundai next month. The Hyundai Accent, which will be priced at as little as £6,599, is the first model to be designed and built in Korea without the use of Japanese technology.

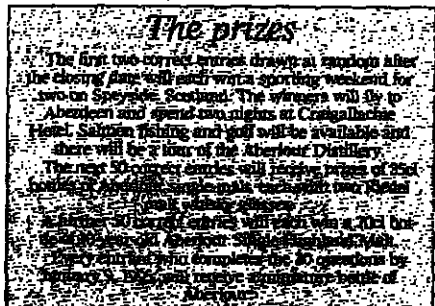
THE TIMES Aberlour Hogmanay Quiz

Hogmanay is here again and with it, offering even bigger and better prizes than before. Is The Times Aberlour Hogmanay Quiz?

The classic Speyside malt whisky and Britain's best quality newspaper have prepared questions on six themes: history, art and literature, geography, sport, food and drink, and general knowledge.

Each day this week we will print five questions. When you have the answers to all the 30 questions which will be appearing, send them in and you could win a sporting weekend for two, with salmon fishing and golf as well as a tour of the Aberlour Distillery.

Even if you fail to win one of the 102 top prizes, your study will not go unrewarded. Every entrant who completes the 30 questions by the closing date will receive a miniature bottle of Aberlour.



The prizes

- 1) Which is the world's oldest golf club?
- 2) In 1955, a new cap on the right wing inspired a victory against Wales by scoring a brilliant try. Who is this player, who went on to become one of the greatest Scottish players?
- 3) Who is the Scot who beat Small Montana, the American champion, in 1937?
- 4) What is the high point of the season to a stinky player?
- 5) Which second division team is the only one to have won the Scottish Football Cup?

How To Enter

Every day this week The Times will publish five questions. When you have the answers to all 30 questions, send them on a piece of paper together with your name, address and daytime phone number to: The Times/Aberlour Hogmanay Quiz, 18-19 Whitefriars Street, London EC8 2NG.

All entries must be received by midnight on January 9, 1995. Winners will be chosen from all correct entries received by this date. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply.

Day One Questions

Dangers in promoting a drinks drive

Jon Ashworth looks at a potential conflict of interest for the drinks industry, which has just spent £50,000 on a seasonal campaign

Commuters and shoppers travelling by London Underground this festive season may have noticed a hard-hitting advertisement warning of the dangers of drinking and driving.

Unusually, the money for the £50,000 poster campaign was provided not by the Department of Transport but by the drinks companies themselves. It is the latest in a series of initiatives that has cost the drinks industry more than £12 million in the past five years.

Eight big names, including Bass, Allied-Lyons, Guinness and Scottish & Newcastle, teamed up in October 1989 to form an independent organisation to promote sensible drinking and develop a better understanding of alcohol misuse.

The Forum Group, headed by John Rae, former headmaster of Westminster School, was immediate-

ly tagged as little more than a public relations front for the drinks industry — a label it has found hard to shrug off. Five years on, the group is active, if controversial, and claims several successes in the campaign to increase awareness of alcohol-related issues.

Notable achievements include the launch of a free Proof of Age card for those aged 18 or older wishing to buy alcohol. About 180,000 cards have been issued since their introduction in May 1990. Another initiative saw the publication of a booklet on alcohol-related public order offences.

The Forum Group has also produced pamphlets aimed at helping parents spot tell-tale signs of

alcohol abuse among their children — although it seems to be treading on shaky ground here. A spokesman says examples include teenagers who sneak in at night or sleep in late during the mornings. Most parents would argue that this is fairly typical behaviour anyway.

In spite of its efforts, the Portman Group has never quite been able to dispel suspicions that it is little more than a token PR stunt by the drinks industry, which annually makes £2.4 million in funds available.

Critics say that most of the money is spent on long-winded academic studies. Controversy erupted this month when it emerged that the

group was paying academics thousands of pounds to challenge the conclusions of a book on alcohol, *Alcohol Policy and the Public Good*, by Griffith Edwards, put forward the case that the best way to prevent alcohol misuse is to reduce overall consumption. This contradicts the drinks industry's line that it is better to focus on drink-driving and specific "hard core" cases.

Alcohol researchers were purportedly offered £2,000 each to challenge the book's conclusions. The use of so-called secret inducements was attacked as a classic example of underhand tactics

by the drinks companies to undo the benefits of otherwise solid research, but the group says such talk is misguided, and it claims a degree of independence from the brewers who fund it.

George Winstanley, director of strategy, said: "A lot of people think that the Portman Group is just a front for the drinks industry. Of course they have a commercial interest, but Dr Rae has a lot of independence and we do have disagreements." A council comprising senior drink industry figures meets regularly.

The future is likely to bring more initiatives tailored for local areas such as the London Underground campaign. One current local drive targets Leamington Spa, where some pubs have experienced problems. Another focuses on York, which has enjoyed success with its drink-driving campaign.

Re Joyce in the Dead

Distant Music, Radio 4, 7.45pm.

I cannot decide which version of James Joyce's amusing, tender and sad story *The Dead* is the more haunting — Tony Huston's screenplay for his father John's valedictory film in 1987 or tonight's adaptation of *The Dead* by Christopher Fitz-Simon. Both are exquisite and linger in a corner of my memory like some much-loved song from distant days. It is, in fact, precisely this kind of song that gives *Distant Music* its heart-rending coda. Up to this point, the play — set in Dublin, 1903 — has been a joyous Epiphany night party, where relatives and friends have danced and sung to celebrate the fact of being alive; intimations of mortality have a long way in the wings. *Distant Music* is magically directed by Peter Kavanagh.

Speaking of Chopin, Radio 3, 6.45pm.

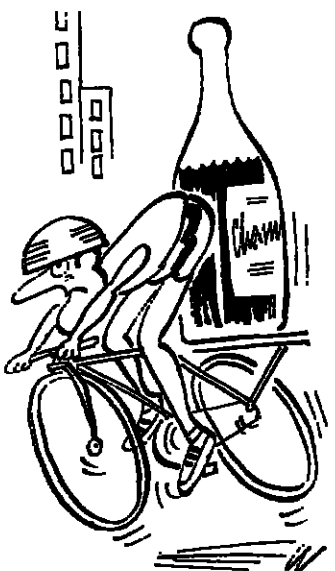
Jeremy Siepmann has landed a job that will turn some Chopin devotees green with envy and others red with indignation. Why devotees green? Because every night this week, he will concentrate on nothing green? Because every night this week, he will try to prove that but Chopin's piano works. Why red? Because he will try to prove that whatever the experts may say, there is no right or wrong way of playing Chopin. The Chopin exponents he talks to — they include Ashkenazy and Mitsuko Uchida — will explain what goes on in their minds, hands and legs when their fingers travel up and down the keyboard. What they will consider tonight is what category Chopin falls into: the Romantic, or the Classic? Peter Daville

THE TIMES



Cards of note, chocs and seeds

CHRISTMAS cracker jokes may have been as dull as ditch-water yesterday, but corporate Christmas cards were much improved this year. The Royal Bank of Scotland sent out with its card, but only to a selected few, a crisp £1 note. It is the only bank in the UK still issuing £1 notes. In the card from College Hill, the public relations firm, was a seed of a Norway spruce (*Picea abies*), plus instructions on how to grow a tree that should be ready for decorating with lights by the turn of the century. From the venture capital group CIN-Ven, came a card sporting a chocolate. The most honest message came, perhaps, from a lobbying group that greeted a colleague with "nice clashing with you this year. Hope we'll be on better terms next year". And a card from the home of a City chairman to a contact bore the message: "Can't remember if I sent you a Christmas card from the office. If I did, my apologies for swamping you with greetings."



THE recession must be over. Eatons-At-The-Minster, a popular Mincing Lane watering hole, ran out of jeroboams of Veuve Clicquot champagne, which sell for £99, late last week. Fresh supplies had to be ferried to Eatons by couriers — on bicycles.

Spotting gems

PONDERING how to ascend the corporate ladder? Here's a tip from one who should know. "Experience does, of course, count for a very great deal, but if a man has not shown ability and responsibility in his early thirties he is quite unlikely to do so in his early fifties" — Harry Oppenheimer, 86, who retired tomorrow after 60 years on the board of De Beers.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Switching on to global electronic spending

Patricia Tehan looks at the future of the Internet network as a high-tech shopping mall



Tim Jones, of Mondex, says electronic commerce is shrinking time

THE sudden metamorphosis of the Internet, the computer network set up 25 years ago for the exchange of academic information, into a high-tech shopping mall has highlighted its fundamental weaknesses.

An estimated 30 million people and about 20,000 firms regularly use the Internet. Every day, hundreds of thousands of people send each other messages and browse around it. Use of the Internet is rising by more than 10 per cent a month. Its use by non-scientific, non-research users is rising by more than 100 per cent a month.

The attractions of this vast, global market place to commercial organisations has not been lost. The Internet is turning into an electronic shopping centre, where users can buy information, computer games, and, increasingly, holidays, health food, books and music.

Unlike the high street shops, it does not close. Shopaholics can window-shop to their hearts' content. However, they run into problems when they want to buy something. The trouble with the Internet is that it was set up to facilitate the exchange of information. It is not secure.

Shoppers could take the risk and pay by credit card, tapping the details into their keyboards and sending them out as an electronic mail message to the seller. But intercepting such messages is easy for computer hackers, and would-be Internet merchants are therefore finding it difficult to make sales to the thousands of people who browse through their shops each day.

The banking community has given a mixed response to the Internet dilemma. Joseph De Feo, director of group operations and technology at Barclays, says: "The banks are certainly not boycotting the Internet, by any stretch of the imagination." The problem, he said, is "a lack of knowledge and understanding of what is happening".

The trouble, according to Gerald Hawkins, general manager of payment services for Lloyds Bank, is that communications technology has moved ahead of payments technology. It would be possible to make the Internet secure, he says, but it would not be cost effective for low-value payments.

Electronic money transfer is nothing new to the banks. It has long been used for the transfer of large-value payments between and within banks. In the United Kingdom on a busy day, the transactions handled by the Clearing House Automated Payment System (Chaps), Britain's largest electronic payments and settlement clearing system, can amount to a quarter of the UK's annual gross domestic product.

Mr Hawkins says that using Chaps would be too expensive for low-value payments. There is a technical solution, but it is not practical or cost effective," he says. Mr De Feo says there are two issues

to get round to make the Internet more commercial. First, is "the level of capability to produce an interface," through which customers can have confidence when conducting their banking business across the Internet. The second, more important issue is security. This is difficult to resolve, he says, "because the network is not owned by anybody".

The Internet was set up under the sponsorship of the United States Government, but a variety of companies have been running it under contract. It does not have an owner. The people who use it are based all over the world. They are subject to different national laws, tax and regulatory regimes.

Mr Hawkins says: "It started from

a totally unregulated linkage of computer systems for the purpose, broadly speaking, of exchanging non-sensitive and non-financial information." This makes it totally unsuitable for the "transfer of value", he adds. Mr De Feo says: "UK banks are doing very little. We are looking at it as part of an electronic delivery strategy review." But there is no UK banking project to develop a payment service, he says.

Visa International, the credit card company, and Microsoft, the software firm, are jointly developing software. They are developing a security architecture that will enable customers to make purchases using coded credit card, debit card and chargecard numbers on-line. Visa

plans to build "a secure transaction technology that will consist of software to support both the cardholder and the merchant sides of a transaction".

As they make a purchase, the details will be encrypted so that payment will be secure. The software is likely to be sold as early as 1995 as an extra on Microsoft's Windows package. Mr Hawkins says he believes this "bolt on" approach is the best way forward for those wanting to make low-value payments over the Internet.

National Westminster is pushing the idea of using its Mondex electronic money on a smartcard to buy goods from shops on the Internet, and has just completed its first Mondex payment over the network. Tim Jones, chief executive of Mondex, describes the transfer as a "technical trial". It needed a personal computer, a card-reading device linked to the computer, and software that recognised the card reader. Given the expense involved, this is not yet practical for everyday use. But Mr Jones says that since 70 per cent of low-value payments are made using cash, and Mondex is the electronic equivalent of cash, it is one of a range of payment options that banks and retailers will have to take into account.

He says the Internet is just one example of a network for electronic commerce. "Electronic commerce is shrinking time and shrinking distance. This is intrinsically attractive because it broadens choice. There is a major market, therefore it is essential that a means of payment is developed," he says.

Retailers want to give consumers every opportunity to make a purchase. Mr Jones predicts that a range of payment options, reflecting consumers' choices will be developed, including Mondex, and a billing service, structured like an account with a store. He says: "We do not see any difference between the money you spend in a shop and the money spent in electronic shops. The more consumers see it as a natural payment opportunity, the more naturally electronic payment will evolve."

In the short-term, however, UK bankers expect the credit-card route to be the most effective. Looking ahead, banks are faced with two choices. They could choose to allow credit card companies such as Visa to represent them, or they could get directly involved in the development of networks like the Internet, thereby having a direct influence on them.

Most have yet to decide what to do. Technology and the use of computers by people at home has moved faster than the banks expected. Mr De Feo says: "The market place is moving so rapidly. The size of the population that is reachable over the Internet has grown so rapidly. That may force us to act more rapidly." But the banks will not act until there is customer demand, and they do not perceive mass market demand for payment systems on the Internet.

Mr De Feo predicts that if the current rate of growth in use of the Internet continues, the next two years will see a growing number of financial institutions offering information about their services on the Internet. When there is demand for more, they will find ways to provide it.

Until then, the Internet's future as a shopping mall is limited.

RADIO 1

FM Stereo, 4.00am Claire Sturges 7.00am Lyn Parsons 10.00am Simon Mayo's Caribbean Christmas 1.00pm Chris Morris 3.00pm Mark Goodier, including 5.30pm Newsbeat 7.00pm Evening Session's Live Rewind 9.00pm Alan Parker's Christmas Special 10.00pm The Story of Pop: House music 11.00pm The Prince's Trust Gala Concert: Recorded earlier this month at the London Arena in Docklands, in a simultaneous broadcast with BBC1 12.30am Lisa L'Amour

RADIO 2

FM Stereo, 3.00am Alex Lester 6.00pm Roger Royle 6.15pm Pause for Thought 7.20pm Wake Up to Wogan 9.15pm Pause for Thought 9.30pm Ken Bruce 12.00pm A Caribbean Christmas 1.00pm Sing Something Crosby (r) 2.00pm Flora Armstrong 3.30pm Ed Stewart 5.00pm The Henry Mancini Tribute 6.00pm Bushy Berkeley 7.00pm Hubert Gregg 7.30pm Dance Band Days, and at 8.00pm Big Band Era 8.30pm Big Band Special 9.00pm Humphrey Lyttelton 10.00pm Jazz Score 11.00pm London Calling: Comedy series about the early days of the BBC (1/5) (r) 11.00pm Magic Moments of Perry Como 12.00am Digby Fairweather 1.00pm Patrick Lunt 3.00am Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

Midnight Test Match Special: Australia v England 7.00pm The Breakfast Programme, including at 6.55pm and 7.55pm Racing Preview 9.05pm Big Live 11.05pm Yule Never Believe This! 11.30pm Sport on Five, with Ian Payne. Football: two of this afternoon's Premiership matches, Racing from Kempton Park, incl at 8.20pm King George VI Trophy Stakes 5.00pm Sports Report 6.05pm Six-O-Six 7.25pm The Monday Match: Manchester City v Blackburn Rovers 10.05pm Island Line 11.00pm Night Echo 11.25pm Yule Never Believe This! 11.30pm Midnight Test Match Special: Australia v England. Commentary on the third day

RADIO 3

6.55am Weather 7.00am Air, with Andrew McGregor, including Quilley (Children's Overture), 8.05pm Handel (Concerto grosso in G, Op 3 No 3); 9.00pm Composer of the Week: Nicola Rimsky-Korsakov (r) 10.00pm Musical Encounters: including Mozart (Piano Concerto No 14 in E flat), 10.20pm Malcolm (The Muses at the Grub); 11.35pm Haydn (Symphony No 75 in D) 12.00pm The Essential Guide to Plot Devices: Rodney Liddle looks at opera plots 1.00pm Christmas Music from Oxford: The BBC Singers under David Angus in a concert recorded at the Sheldonian Theatre 1.50pm Vienna Philharmonic under Zubin Mehta 3.25pm Paris 1200 3.45pm Songs Without Words 4.30pm Strange Arrangement: The composer, pianist and bandleader Carla Bley in conversation with Alan Piller 5.00pm The Music of the Music (r) 5.15pm The Changing Orchestra: Michael Hall introduces recordings by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra made between 1930-93 6.45pm Speaking of Chopin... a Pianist's View: See Choice 7.30pm Philharmonie Beethoven: Cyclic: Nikolaus Harnoncourt conducts Symphony No 8 in F and Symphony No 6 in F 8.55pm John Updike: Cruise. The first of three stories 9.25pm Keshcheh the Deathless: The London Choral Society and the RPO under Valery Gergiev perform Rimsky-Korsakov's one-act fairy-tale opera, given earlier this year at the Barbican Hall, London (r) 10.45pm Midday It: Favourite tracks from 1994 11.30-12.30am Music Restored

RADIO 4

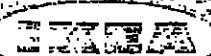
5.55am Shipping 6.00pm News 6.10pm Farming Today 6.25pm Prayer for the Day 6.30pm Singing for a Living 7.00pm Today, incl 7.00pm, 7.30pm, 8.00pm, 8.30pm News 6.55pm, 7.55pm Weather 7.25pm, 8.25pm Sports News 7.45pm Thought for the Day 8.40pm Murders and Other Friends: John Mortimer recalls an eventful life at the Bar (1/5) 8.55pm Weather 9.00pm News 9.05pm Boards and Lodgings: A pantomime actor's life on the road 10.00-10.30pm News; Questions of Taste (FM only) 10.00pm Daily Service (LW only) 10.15pm Children's Radio 4: Charlotte's Web (LW only) 10.30pm Photo Appreciated (r) 11.00pm News; A Word for the Belly: An offbeat anthology on indulgence and denial 11.30pm Murder in Mesopotamia, by Agatha Christie (1/5) (r) 12.00pm News; Second to None: People who do other people's jobs (1/5) 12.25pm Screenplay: Film quiz 1.00pm The World at One 1.40pm The Archers (r) 1.55pm Shipping Forecast 2.00pm News; The Wind in the

RADIO 5

FM 97.6-99.8, RADIO 2: FM 88-90.2, RADIO 3: FM 90.2-92.4, RADIO 4: 198kHz/1515m, FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198, RADIO 5: 693kHz/433m, 909kHz/330m, LONDON RADIO: 1152kHz/281m; FM 97.3, CAPITAL: 1548kHz/194m; FM 95.8, GLR: FM 94.8; WORLD SERVICE: MW 649kHz/463m, CLASSIC FM: FM 100-102, VIRGIN: MW 1215, 1187, 1242 kHz. Listings compiled by Peter Dear and Gillian Macey

SCRUM DOWN

AT THE IKEA SALE FROM 10AM TOMORROW



Sale runs from 27 December to 15 January

You'll find IKEA in London at Brent Park (Nr. Wembley Stadium) and Purley Way, Croydon. In Warrington at Junction 9 off the M62. At Park Lane, Wednesbury (Junction 9 off the M6). And at Metro Park West, Gateshead.

هكذا من الأصل

Chairman rejects building society buy

NatWest plans to buy Wall Street firm

BY NEIL BENNETT, DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

NATIONAL Westminster Bank is planning to acquire an investment bank on Wall Street to expand its capital markets operations in America. The bank is also examining ways of forming a joint venture with one of London's top merchant banks.

In contrast, it has ruled out the acquisition of a British building society, contrary to market speculation, since it believes it should be able to grow its personal financial services business on its own.

Lord Alexander of Weedon, NatWest's chairman, outlined the strategy in an interview with *The Times*. The search for an American investment bank is still at an early stage, but the plans should lead to a major expansion of NatWest Markets, its capital markets division, in the next few years.

The strategy has been formed to guide NatWest's future and increase the international spread of its business. This, the bank believes, will make it less exposed to the fluctuations in the British economy. "We do not want to be reliant on a medium-sized mature European economy," Lord Alexander said. Many City commentators had been

expecting NatWest to follow the lead set by Lloyds and try to buy a building society to expand its share of the British mortgage and savings market. Lord Alexander said: "It is no part of our current plans at all to buy a building society. We see no reason to pay a premium for acquiring or getting involved with the rationalisation that would be involved when buying a building society with more branches."

"We are going to invest in our UK business, but we are not going to throw a premium away for what we ought to be doing ourselves. We have 20 per cent of the personal banking market. If we cannot build on that, we are not doing our jobs properly," he said.

NatWest is extremely enthusiastic about the future of NatWest Markets, which is thought to have survived the downturn in world bond markets more successfully than many of its competitors. NatWest's American equities business is the largest of any overseas firm in Wall Street.

Now Lord Alexander and the NatWest board have decided they should look for ways to accelerate the growth of the division. In Britain, they

are examining ways of developing a more powerful corporate finance and fund management business by linking up to a traditional merchant bank. A firm like Kleinwort Benson would be one of the possible choices.

In America, however, Lord Alexander said that the group is likely to need an acquisition to increase NatWest Markets' presence on Wall Street. But he emphasised that the culture of any potential purchase would have to be compatible and the firm's staff would have to want to forge a link with NatWest.

"We are looking into a partnership or acquisition arrangement with either a US house or to strengthen our business further in the UK. We have an open mind on this," Lord Alexander said.

He added that an acquisition would not necessarily be large. The bank wants to expand the range of skills that NatWest Markets offers and develop the division into a fully integrated investment bank. This year, NatWest Markets showed its preference for joint ventures when it set up an equities firm with Wheelock in Hong Kong and China.

Lord Alexander said any takeover would be approached sensitively. "The highly skilled people in an investment bank do not want to be submerged in a large organisation. We must make certain that everyone joins our organisation with a feeling of respect and a feeling that they are not going to be dominated. We want their full-hearted consent."

NatWest is looking forward to a year of modest growth in 1995. Lord Alexander said: "There are indications that businesses are taking out some new lending now, but it is steady rather than spectacular. This pattern is right for the economy and we are not looking for dramatic lending growth on unstable foundations."

He said that the next years would see a further improvement in the public's perception of the banks. "For years, banking was a limited product, administratively driven business. It is now being turned into a retail financial services culture. The process of expanding the range of choices for the customer is accelerating."



Hodder Headline's decision to allow discount selling puts it into opposition with the Publishers Association

Building cutbacks criticised

THE head of Redland, Britain's largest building materials group, has attacked the Government's decision to cut its road-building programme, accusing it of saving the money to fund pre-election tax cuts. He says that rising interest rates could stall the recovery in the housing market (Neil Bennett writes).

Robert Napier, Redland's chief executive, launched an angry Christmas tirade against government policy, which he believes is damaging the prospects of recovery in the construction industry.

"The cuts in the road-building programme where the Government is, yet again, reducing capital expenditure to fund election tax cuts is in depressing contrast to the commitment to efficient transport systems shown by many of our international competitors," Mr Napier said.

He added that a strong recovery in the construction industry was vital to sustain the general improvement in the economy and improve the country's capital assets. "Unfortunately, the actions of the Government in the past six months have not been conducive to these objectives."

Hodder Headline pulls out of book agreement

BY MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

A FURTHER nail will be hammered into the coffin of the Net Book Agreement today when Hodder Headline, Britain's fifth biggest publisher, allows some of its best-selling authors to be sold at a discount for the first time.

Hodder, which publishes John Le Carré and Stephen King, the American horror writer, said this autumn that it would be pulling out of the agreement, one of the few remaining legal restrictive practices, today, conveniently in time for the sales season.

Tina Hely Hutchinson, the company's chief executive, held talks in the run-up to Christmas with interested booksellers and, in particular, the Dilsons chain, a long-time opponent of the agreement along with the Scottish John Menzies business, to decide which titles they could discount.

He said: "We regard the whole business of de-netting [ending the agreement] and discounting as experimental. We want to gain experience in a free trade environment and it's particularly useful to do so without much competitive activity going on elsewhere." The move by

Hodder puts it in opposition to the Publishers Association, the industry body that has appealed to its members for £1 million to cover legal fees run up in defending the agreement.

The Office of Fair Trading has referred the whole matter to the restrictive practices court, which will consider the agreement in May.

But Hodder is the second of the United Kingdom's big five publishers to pull out of the agreement and if, as widely expected, another breaks ranks in the new year, industry observers believe that official price-fixing within the book industry may be effectively dead and buried, even before the court deliberates.

Mr Hely Hutchinson said: "The Net Book Agreement is crumbling in one way or another. The chances of a third big publisher de-netting next year are fairly high anyway."

Three years ago, Reed International Books, the third biggest publisher, pulled out of

the agreement. But Reed's booklist is dominated by educational and consumer titles, and Hodder will therefore be the first publisher to allow shops to discount big fiction best-sellers.

The agreement is a compact between those publishers that have joined it preventing retailers selling most books at less than the net price set. Retailers that discount can theoretically be refused big new titles.

Hodder is expected to allow prices to be cut on about 100 of its 2,000 new titles planned for the year, including the new Le Carré, *Our Game*, which is due out in May.

Hodder is not setting the level which retailers can discount to, but the expectation is that a novel priced at perhaps £16 will drop to £12 or even less.

Mr Hely Hutchinson said: "I'm very confident that Dilsons, in particular, will have a very attractive sale offer that will include a lot of our books."

Industry ready to grow, says ICI chief

BY NEIL BENNETT

BRITISH industry is better placed for growth than it has been for decades, according to Ronnie Hampel, chief executive of ICI. He is urging British businesses to continue improving their productivity so they can take advantage of the improvement in global industrial markets.

Mr Hampel said that ICI would continue its drive to improve productivity in 1995. The group will continue expanding its growth businesses using the methods it has advanced this year, by establishing large capital spending projects and acquiring a few smaller businesses.

"British industry is better placed for growth than for many years," Mr Hampel said. "Inflation is low and economic conditions are improving in markets across the world. The challenge is to lift our sights and make the most of the opportunity. The primary task now is to transform the market opportunities into real progress."

"Competition is getting tougher as more businesses become global. We need not only to maintain but improve on productivity gains achieved at so much cost to employees and shareholders."

Mr Hampel said that ICI would continue its drive to focus on a portfolio of growth businesses. "Historically, we have not driven the good businesses hard enough."

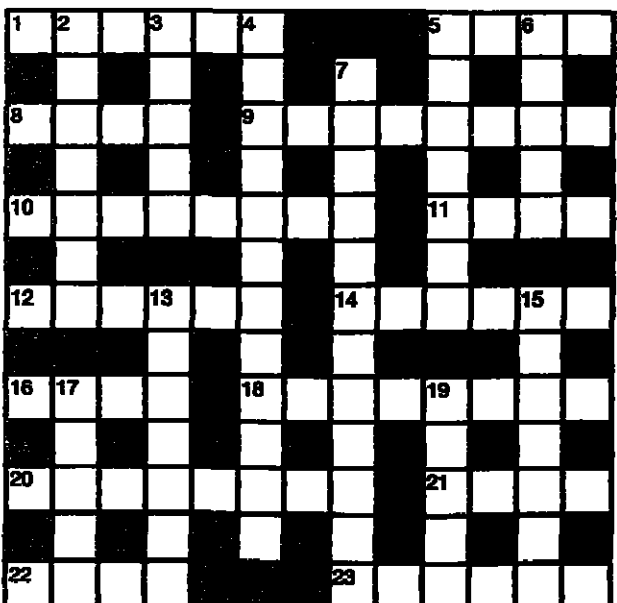
These businesses include chemicals, such as pure terephthalic acid (PTA), the basic constituent of polyester. In the past year, ICI announced it was doubling the capacity of its PTA plant in Taiwan and would be building a further plant in Pakistan. Meanwhile, the company is building a PET plastics plant in America, investing heavily in a new explosives factory in Chile and developing paints plants in Indonesia and Thailand.

"We are only going to be successful if we remain globally competitive," Mr Hampel said. "We must take advantage of the growth prospects while continuing our productivity improvements."

ICI has improved its sales per employee by 60 per cent since 1990. Mr Hampel said even this was not sufficient to ensure ICI retained its lead over other large chemical groups. "We will have to continue the pressure to remain competitive," he said.



Lord Alexander favours a sensitive approach in any takeover



WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

LEPTOSOMIC

- a. A lean physique
- b. Short of breath
- c. Irrational behaviour

KATYDID

- a. An Indian dance-drama
- b. A large grasshopper
- c. A schoolgirl's meek

MARIONETTISH

- a. Appearing like a marionette
- b. A shy person
- c. A lanky person

LUNKER

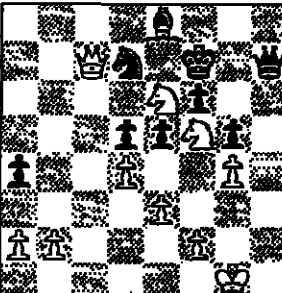
- a. A wood cutter
- b. A person with big ears
- c. A large fish

Answers on page 29

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Alekhine - Vajda, Portsmouth 1923. How did White cut his way through to the black king?

Solution, page 29
Raymond Keene, page 5

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 353

ACROSS

- 1 Spadlike scoop (6)
- 5 Unadorned (4)
- 8 High male voice (4)
- 9 Boasting (8)
- 10 Likeness: line of constant latitude (8)
- 11 Make (tea, beer) (4)
- 12 Commemorative tablet: tooth deposit (6)
- 14 Danish king of England (6)
- 16 Exploding star (4)
- 18 Foliage (8)
- 20 Natural tendency (8)
- 21 Pleased (4)
- 22 Seed: infectious agent (4)
- 23 Corrupt, falling apart (6)

DOWN

- 2 Portable case (7)
- 3 Flower: instrument: Sebastian's twin (*Twelfth Night*) (5)
- 4 Scoring evenly (with) (5, 7)
- 5 Sweet, spiced currant roll (4, 3)
- 6 Mounted knight's weapon (5)
- 7 Government-funded part of economy (6, 6)
- 13 Smallest unit of energy (7)
- 15 Row of houses (7)
- 17 Small weight: snow leopard (5)
- 19 Dark time (5)

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD

ACROSS: 1 I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas 15 Dead end 16 Apologise 17 Landowner 18 Construct 19 Elastic 20 Nameplate 21 Reshoe 22 Metaphysical 25 Stature 28 Mi(s)alliance 29 Buffalo 30 Harness 31 Catatonic 33 Unicorn 34 Terraotta 38 Field of Cloth of Gold 40 Restrain 42 Ensnore 44 All hands to the pumps 47 Sanguinary 48 Groove 50 Typically 52 Secrete 54 Apple 55 Tea ceremony 58 Ignites 60 The New Forest 61 Abuser 63 Treacher 65 Outcrop 68 Rearrests 69 Letting go 70 Emotional 71 Houdini 72 As different as chalk and cheese
DOWN: 1 Indecorum 2 Diagnosis 3 Electroluted 4 Made up 5 Near the house 6 Ozone 7 Agoraphobic 8 Hoax 9 Trench coat 10 Colonel Bogey 11 Renames 12 Swoop 13 Miniature 14 Sorcerer 23 Adequately 24 Suffragan 26 Apricot 27 Significance 30 Horsewhipped 31 Coffers 32 Treason 35 Trammel 36 Amnesty 37 Flesh-eater 39 Otherwise 41 South Australia 43 Opulent 45 Pocket borough 46 Breast-stroke 49 Over-furnish 51 Benevolent 52 Scintilla 53 Congested 56 Obsessive 57 Yorkshire 59 Spangle 62 Lashed 64 Chief 66 Trots 67 Penal

CROSSWORD BOOKS (Reduced postage until Dec 31): The Times Concise Crosswords (Books 1 & 2 £5.49 each). Books 3, 4, 5 & 6 NEW Book 7 £4.00 each. The Times Jumbo Crosswords (Books 1 & 2 £5.49 each). Concise Book £5.49. The Times Crosswords (Books 1 to 13 £4.49 each). Books 14 to 18 & NEW Book 19 £4.00 each. The Sunday Times Crosswords - (Book 1 £4.49). Books 10, 11, 12 & NEW Book 13 £4.00 each. The Sunday Times Concise Books 1, 2, 3 £4.00 each. Except the items in brackets, software available for all titles for IBM PCs and Acorn computers - Price £14.95 each - also The Times Computer Crosswords Vols 1 to 6. The Sunday Times Vols 1 to 6 and The Times Jumbo Edition. Prices inc p&p (UK). Cheques to A&A Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW. Return delivery. Tel 081-852 475 (24 hrs). No credit cards.

BP to sell chemical business

BY CARL MORTIMORE

BP CHEMICALS is selling its carbondum and advanced materials businesses and expects to announce a buyer in the first quarter of 1995. The combined businesses have a turnover of about £300 million and BP has conducted a controlled auction as part of its efforts to focus and streamline the recovering chemicals businesses. The Carbondum Company is based in Niagara Falls and has operations in six countries making refractory materials used in manufacturing processes such as steel-making.

Buyers for the carbondum business could come from competitors such as St Gobain in France, DDA in Germany, or Dresser Corporation in the US. Morgan Crucible, a UK competitor, said it had looked at the business but decided not to make an offer. BP said the business was making an operating margin in single figures and indicated that the sale could involve a leveraged buyout.

BP's advanced materials businesses have suffered due to recession in the aerospace sector. The low volume and labour intensive businesses make lightweight materials used in military aircraft.

The BP Chemicals sales came at the end of the group's programme of asset sales that have raised close to \$20 billion over the past five years. After the sale of BP Nutrition, few non-hydrocarbon assets remain to be sold.

Saving lives with salt and sugar

THIS CHRISTMAS, Save the Children is seeking to reduce the number of young lives lost from preventable diseases like diarrhoea.

More than 8,000 children suffering from diarrhoea die every day. Yet according to Nicholas Hinton, the charity's Director General, many of these lives could be saved for as little as 10 pence, the cost of a sachet of Oral Rehydration Salts.

The salts, a simple mixture of sodium and sugar, prevent children from dehydrating, the most common cause of death from acute diarrhoea. Over the past few years, the effectiveness of these salts has been proven as they have helped to save thousands of lives.

Hinton continues, "The sachets cost as little as 10 pence and are simple to use, which makes them easy to include in our health programmes."

Urgent Appeal

Save the Children's Christmas Appeal aims to raise funds to buy more Oral Rehydration Salts and other vital healthcare resources and send them to children most in need.



A simple solution can save thousands of young lives each year.

Photo by MIKE WELLS

Hinton adds, "Just £10 can help save the lives of 100 children. What better gift could you give a child than the gift of life?"

If you would like to make a

donation to help Save the Children with their work, please return the coupon below to Christmas Appeal, Dept. 4050520, Save the Children, FREEPOST, London SE5 8BR.

Yes, I want to give the gift of life this Christmas

Please accept my gift of ☐ £30 ☐ £15 ☐ £10 ☐ Other £_____

Name Mr/Ms/Ms: _____ Address: _____

Postcode: _____

I enclose my: ☐ Cash ☐ Postal Order ☐ Cheque ☐ Giro No. 5173000 ☐ CAV ☐

Or charge my: ☐ Access ☐ American Express ☐ Card No. _____

Visa ☐ Diners Club ☐ CAF Card ☐ Signature _____ Card Expiry Date _____

Please return to: Christmas Appeal, Dept. 4050520, Save the Children, FREEPOST, London SE5 8BR. Or dial 071-701 0894 with your credit card details. Thank you.

Save the Children